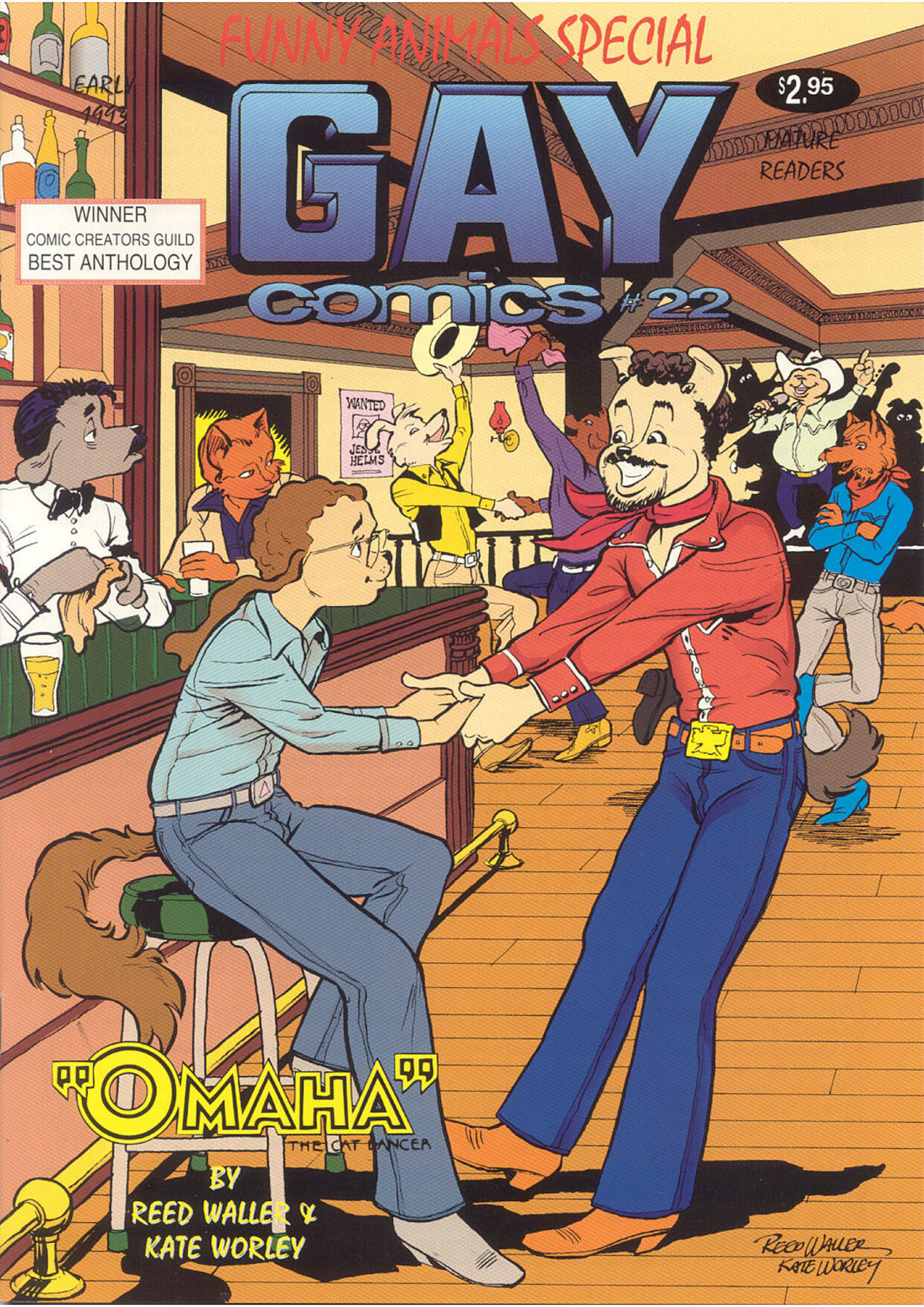

FUNNY ANIMALS SPECIAL
GAY comics #22
$2.95
MATURE READERS
WINNER
COMIC CREATORS GUILD
BEST ANTHOLOGY
WANTED
JESSE HELMS
"OMAHA"
THE CAT DANCER
BY
REED WALLER &
KATE WORLEY
REED WALLER
KATE WORLEY

FROM THE EDITOR

Got your pet -- or your partner -- in your lap? You'll definitely want to curl up with something *furry* for this issue!

Welcome to our special "Funny Animals" issue of *Gay Comics*, yet another of our far-ranging theme books. Gays and lesbians are well-known as pet lovers, a fact represented by some of the stories in this issue. The other stories include anthropomorphics, animals with the physical and intellectual characteristics of humans. Anthropomorphic fans make up a whole subculture within the comic world, known as "furry fandom." This subgrouping is very tolerant of — and often *embraces* — the gay / lesbian / bisexual communities.

We're crossing over with two of these furry books, the critically-acclaimed *Omaha, The Cat Dancer*, which is one of the most loved alternative comics in the industry, and *Shanda The Panda*, an up-and-coming furry book generating a lot of fans. We've also got a cross-over with **Diane DiMassa**'s glorious *Hothead Paisan* series, spotlighting Hothead's cat, Chicken. These cross-overs will hopefully cross-pollinate our fans with these books, bringing more fans to all the series involved!

If you didn't read last issue, we've recently won the **"1993 Award for Best Anthology to Gay Comics, edited by Andy Mangels"**! The award was presented by Britain's preeminent association of comic book professionals, the **Comic Creators Guild**.

We're trying to get noticed in the American comic awards, notably the Eisners and Harveys, but *you* can help make a difference with the third major awards. On the last page of this issue you'll find the award ballot for the ***Comic Buyer's Guide Awards***, voted on by you, the fans! *Gay Comics* #17-20 are eligible for the awards, as are any creators or stories in those issues. But hurry and vote, as the deadline is June 1st!

More recognition for *Gay Comics* creators comes on stage this month. San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros will be debuting a night of *Gay Comics* cartoons brought to life this Spring. "Out Of the Inkwell" is written by **Kelly Kittell**, and it includes segments by **Tim Barela**, **Diane DiMassa**, **Rupert Kinnard** (aka Prof. I. B. Gittendowne), and **Garry Trudeau**. The open-ended run begins May 21st, with an opening party planned for sometime that week. Several of the creators are planning to attend, as well as other *Gay Comics* luminaries, so call the box office at 415-861-5079 for more information!

Where else have we shown up? **Deb Price**, the only nationally syndicated "Gay Issues Columnist", hailing from the *Detroit News*, spotlighted *Gay Comics* creators in her July 23rd column, with quotes and art from **Alison Bechdel**, **Jennifer Camper**, **Ivan Velez, Jr.**, **Diane DiMassa**, and some guy named **Andy Mangels**. Plus, ye editor has recently done radio talk shows in Massachusetts ("One in Ten") and Oregon ("The Old Mole Hour").

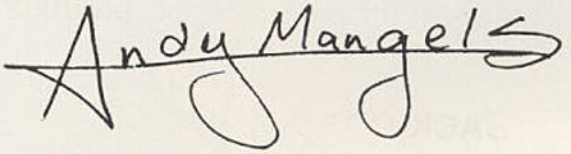
Gay Comics also made another television premiere on *Prisoners Of Gravity* in January, in a special on Gays and Lesbians in Science Fiction. Our very own **Roberta Gregory** was seen on this Canadian series which also airs on many PBS stations!

Look for the *Gay Comics* entry, tracing the history of gay and lesbian cartoonists and comics, in Collier Books' upcoming *Concise Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*. That book should be out right around the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall in New York this June.

Speaking of **Stonewall 25**, we're working on getting a *Gay Comics* signing at one of the gay and lesbian or comic book stores of the area. If you're planning on coming in for the week-long celebration that encompasses the **Gay Games** and the Gay Pride/Stonewall 25 March, be sure to check and see if your favorite cartoonists will be appearaing anywhere!

Upcoming issues of *Gay Comics* will include work by **Matt Wagner**, **Neil Gaimin**, and **Craig Hamilton**, as well as many of our past creators. If you're new to this award-winning publication, check out the back issues for sale later in this issue. If you're a regular reader, buy some for some friends, and reserve copies of our next issue with your store. We'll see you all then!

Keep Loving!



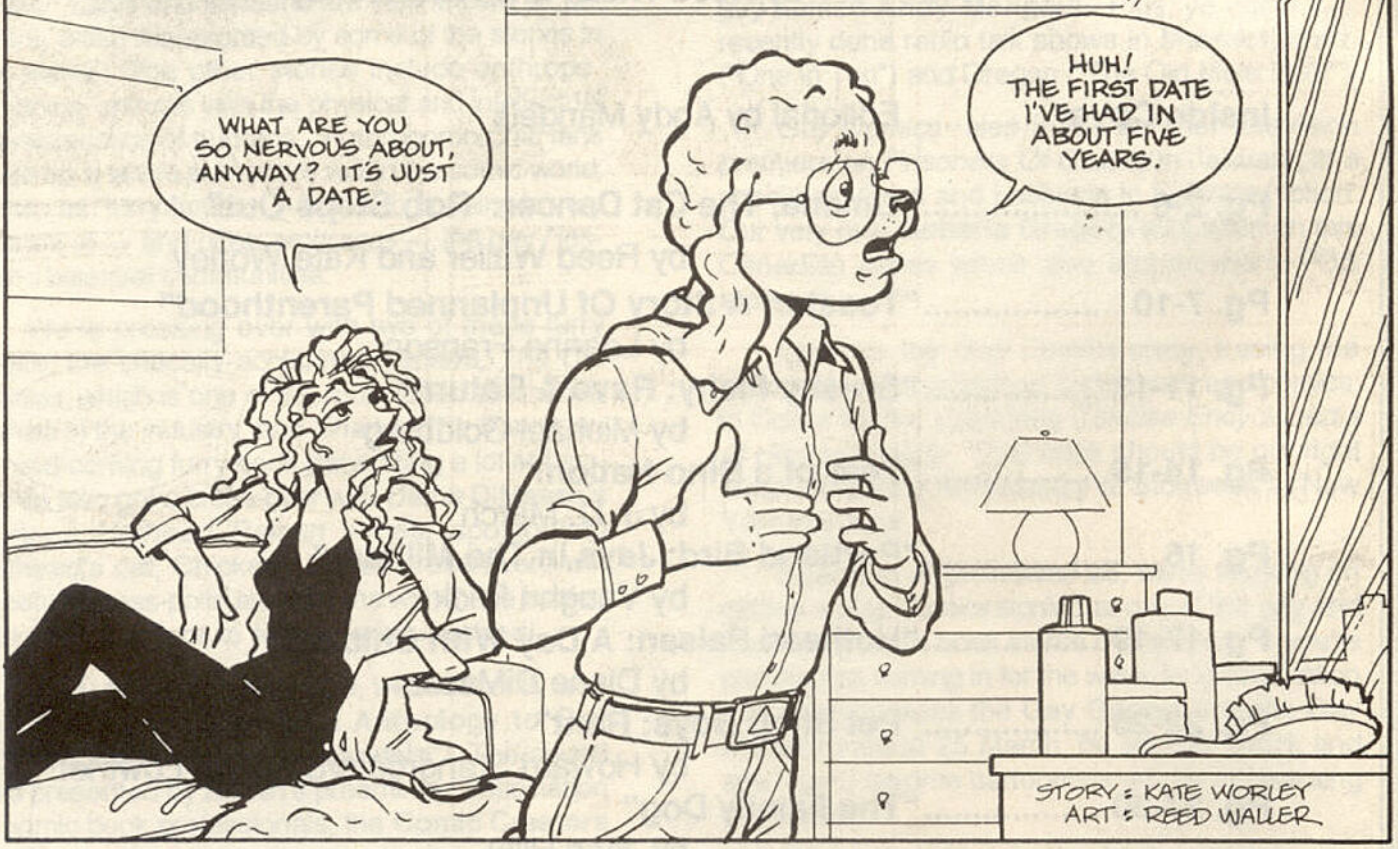
Send *Gay Comics* submissions and letters to :
Andy Mangels - Editor, Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR, 97208-3226
Submissions responses may take a long time.
Always include a phone number and a SASE.

Cover Coloring and layout by InColor of San Diego

TALES OF MIPPLE CITY

"ROB STEPS OUT"

© 1994 by REED WALLER + KATE WORLEY



GAY COMICS #22: Summer 1994
edited by Andy Mangels

FRONT COVER ..... **"Two-Steppin'!"**
by Reed Waller and Kate Worley

Inside Cover ..... Editorial by Andy Mangels

Pg. 2-6 ..... **"Omaha, The Cat Dancer: Rob Steps Out"**
by Reed Waller and Kate Worley

Pg. 7-10 ..... **"Toaster: A Story Of Unplanned Parenthood"**
by Leanne Franson

Pg. 11-13 ..... **"Swishy Fishy: Rave & Return"**
by Michael Goldberg

Pg. 14-15 ..... **"Fear of a Dino Nation!"**
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Pg. 16 ..... **"Portland Bird: Jays In The Military"**
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Pg. 17-19 ..... **"Hothead Paisan: A Day With Chicken"**
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Pg. 36-38 ..... **"Shanda The Panda: Do You Remember"**
by Mike Curtis/Terrie Smith/Mark Barnard

Pg. 39 ..... **Letters Page**

Inside Cover ..... Contributors

BACK COVER ..... **"Finicky Eaters"** by Diane DiMassa

GAY COMICS #22, Summer 1994
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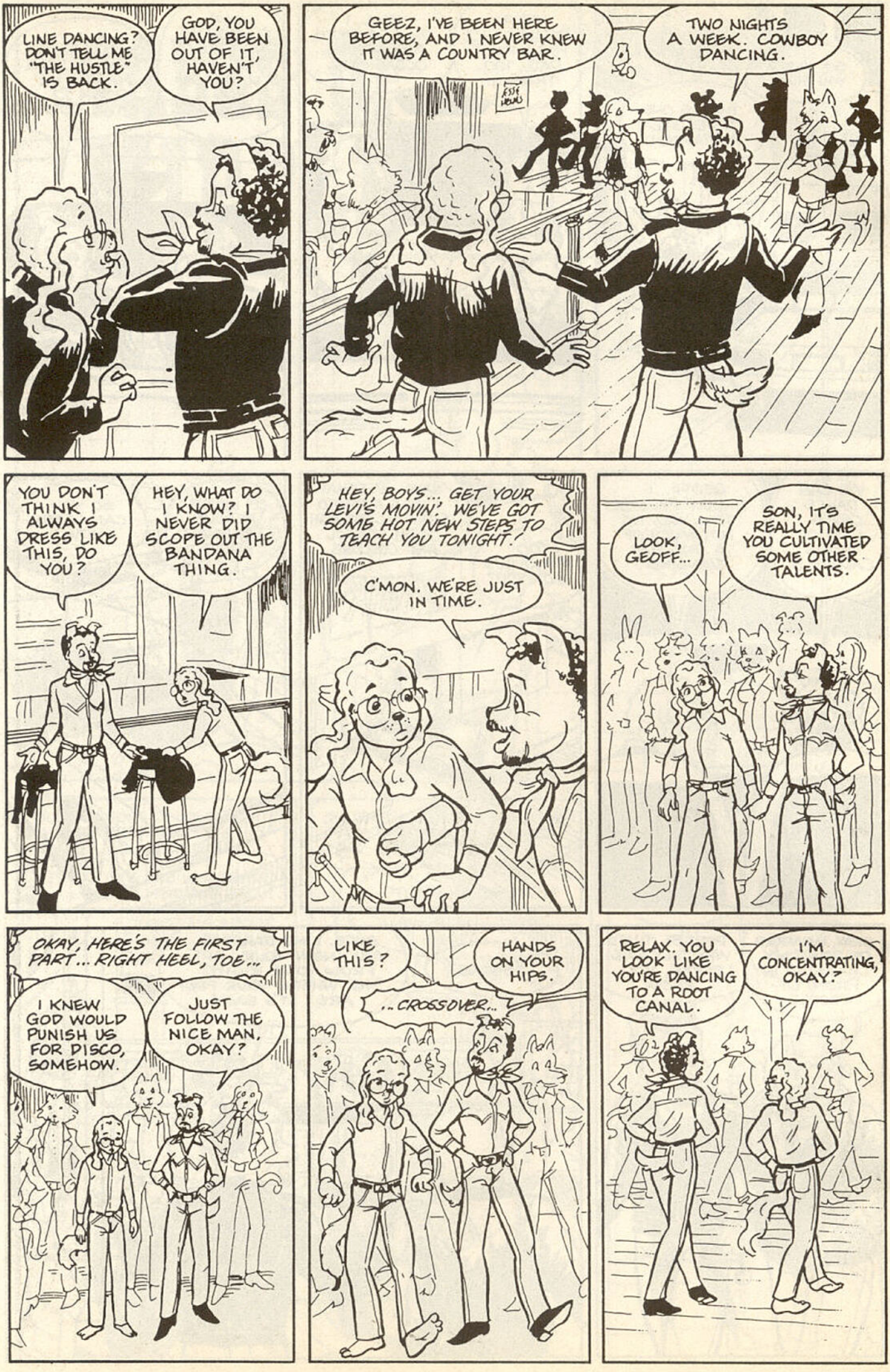
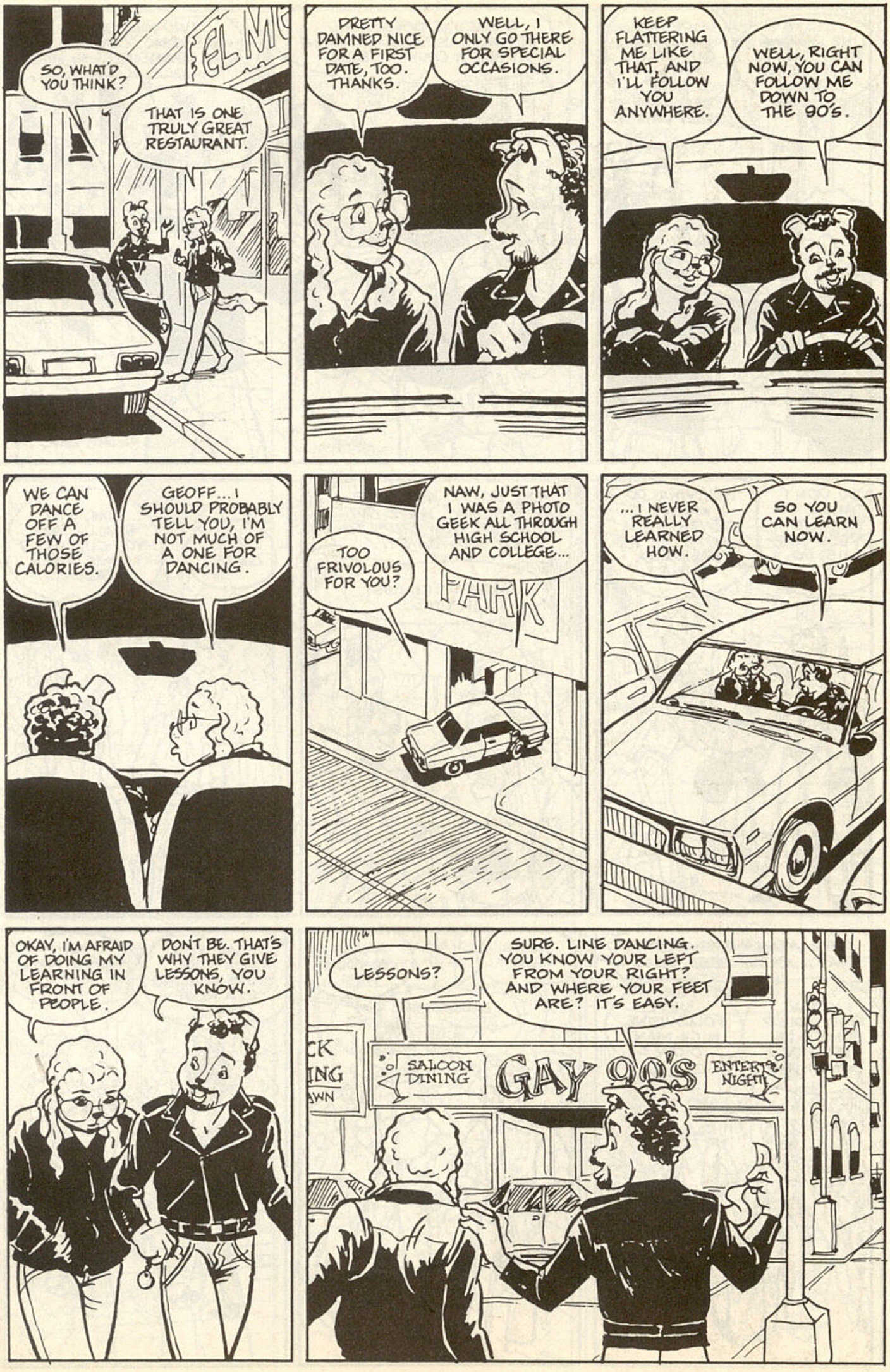
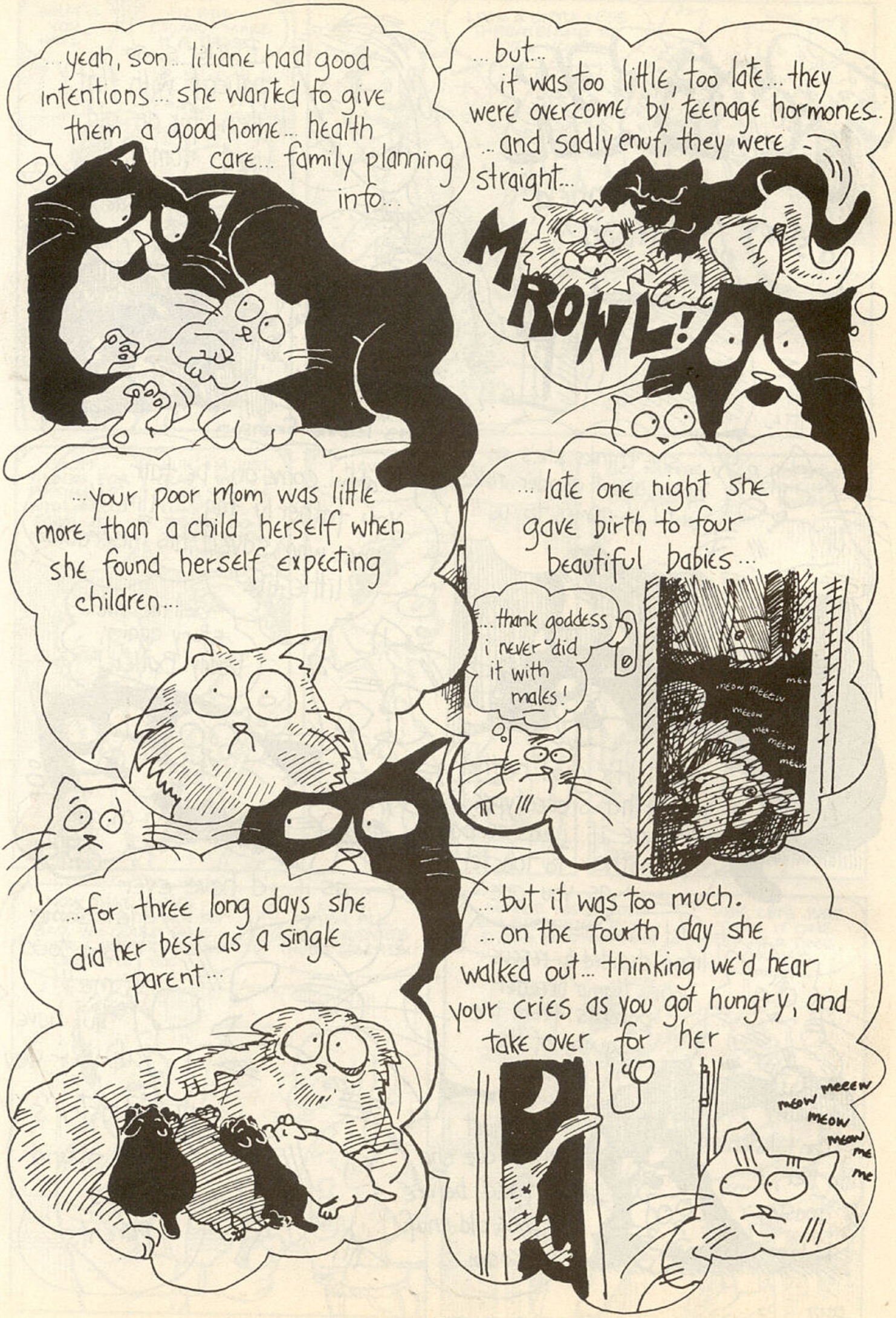

LINE DANCING? DON'T TELL ME "THE HUSTLE" IS BACK.
GOD, YOU HAVE BEEN OUT OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
GEEZ, I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, AND I NEVER KNEW IT WAS A COUNTRY BAR.
TWO NIGHTS A WEEK. COWBOY DANCING.
YOU DON'T THINK I ALWAYS DRESS LIKE THIS, DO YOU?
HEY, WHAT DO I KNOW? I NEVER DID SCOPE OUT THE BANDANA THING.
HEY, BOYS... GET YOUR LEVI'S MOVIN'! WE'VE GOT SOME HOT NEW STEPS TO TEACH YOU TONIGHT!
C'MON. WE'RE JUST IN TIME.
LOOK, GEOFF...
SON, IT'S REALLY TIME YOU CULTIVATED SOME OTHER TALENTS.
OKAY, HERE'S THE FIRST PART... RIGHT HEEL, TOE...
I KNEW GOD WOULD PUNISH US FOR DISCO, SOMEHOW.
JUST FOLLOW THE NICE MAN, OKAY?
LIKE THIS?
HANDS ON YOUR HIPS.
...CROSSOVER...
RELAX. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DANCING TO A ROOT CANAL.
I'M CONCENTRATING, OKAY?


SO, WHAT'D YOU THINK?
THAT IS ONE TRULY GREAT RESTAURANT.
PRETTY DAMNED NICE FOR A FIRST DATE, TOO. THANKS.
WELL, I ONLY GO THERE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.
KEEP FLATTERING ME LIKE THAT, AND I'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE.
WELL, RIGHT NOW, YOU CAN FOLLOW ME DOWN TO THE 90's.
WE CAN DANCE OFF A FEW OF THOSE CALORIES.
GEOFF... I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL YOU, I'M NOT MUCH OF A ONE FOR DANCING.
TOO FRIVOLOUS FOR YOU?
NAW, JUST THAT I WAS A PHOTO GEEK ALL THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE...
PARK
...I NEVER REALLY LEARNED HOW.
SO YOU CAN LEARN NOW.
OKAY, I'M AFRAID OF DOING MY LEARNING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.
DON'T BE. THAT'S WHY THEY GIVE LESSONS, YOU KNOW.
LESSONS?
SURE. LINE DANCING. YOU KNOW YOUR LEFT FROM YOUR RIGHT? AND WHERE YOUR FEET ARE? IT'S EASY.
SALOON DINING
GAY 90'S
ENTERT NIGHT

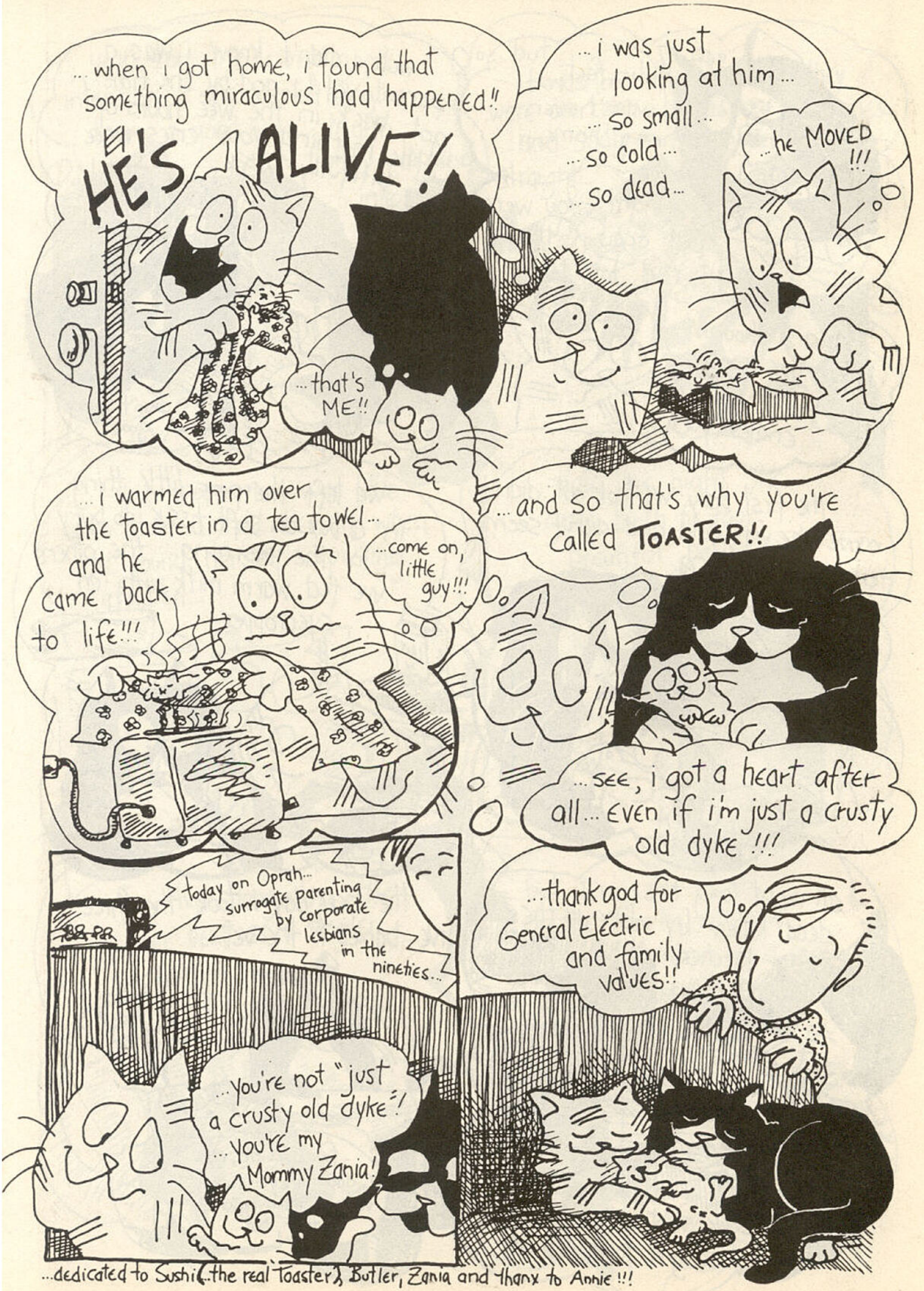
OKAY, THEN BACK THE OTHER WAY...
HEY, YOU'RE CATCHING ON QUICK.
NOW SWOOP RIGHT... LEFT...
QUARTER TURN, REPEAT...
OKAY?
MM. BEATS THE BUNNY HOP, I GUESS.
NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT THE BASICS, LET'S CRANK UP THE MUSIC...
THAT HEEL-TOE THING WORKS BETTER WITH BOOTS, OF COURSE.
YEAH, I'M FINDING THAT OUT.
HEY, YOU GOT IT.
SO FAR.
HEY... THIS IS KINDA FUN.
YOU DID GREAT!
YEE-HAH!
WHOO
A LITTLE HARD TO WIGGLE LIKE THAT IN TIGHT JEANS.
I'D SAY YOU GOT THAT WIGGLE DOWN REAL NICE, HON.
HMPH! LET ME BUY YOU A BEER, BEFORE YOUR JEANS ATTRACT ANY MORE ATTENTION.

WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?
IN THIS CROWD? MAKE IT A PABST.
LOOK A LITTLE LESS THREATENING TO YOU NOW?
WELL, FROM THIS ANGLE, ANYWAY.
GEOFF... THANKS. FOR PUTTING UP WITH AN OLD POOP LIKE ME, I MEAN.
HUH! I'M JUST GLAD I DIDN'T TURN YOU OFF COMPLETELY, BEING SO PUSHY WITH THIS.
I HAVEN'T, HAVE I?
NO, YOU HAVEN'T.
SO... MAYBE WE CAN GO OUT AGAIN?
I HOPE SO. DANCING, EVEN.
NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND OUT IT'S NOT SO BAD, WE COULD TAKE SOME "WESTERN SWING" LESSONS, TOO.
SURE. AFTER ALL, GOTTA CULTIVATE THOSE TALENTS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO SHOPPING FOR THOSE BOOTS, HMM?
HEY, LET'S JUST TAKE IT ONE STEP AT A TIME, OKAY?
END

TOASTED
...a story of unplanned parenthood!
Butler's so patient with that kitten for an old fixed tomcat!!!
sexist!
©1993 leanne franson
...she thinks she's so 'open' about gender roles until it comes to us!!
...ahh... come on... be fair, you fatherly fag!... i'm the one who saved his miserable little life!!
...tell me the story again, Daddy Butler!!
...well, it's good neither of us fit her stereotypes! ...imagine if i was as bad a mother to toaster as you are!!
...oh, all right...
...as if i'd have ever let some tom touch me!!! ...but have it your way:
...let's see... liliane decided to rescue your tramp breeder parents from the squalor of the streets...
"Toaster's poor young homeless parents..."
...don't listen to her, Toaster...
...she's just bitter cuz she was fixed before she was old enuf to roam...


...yeah, son... liliane had good intentions... she wanted to give them a good home... health care... family planning info...
...but... it was too little, too late... they were overcome by teenage hormones... ...and sadly enuf, they were straight...
MROWL!
...your poor mom was little more than a child herself when she found herself expecting children...
...late one night she gave birth to four beautiful babies...
...thank goddess i never did it with males!
meow meeew
meeow
meeow
meew
...for three long days she did her best as a single parent...
...but it was too much. ...on the fourth day she walked out... thinking we'd hear your cries as you got hungry, and take over for her
meow meeew
meow
meow
me
me

...in fact, I wasn't even home...
...right!! You were out cruisin' that uncut red Tom from the 'burbs'! ...and I thought kittens are 'sposed to bawl endlessly!!
...well, I didn't know I was a parent yet!!... and by the time I got back in the wee hours of the morning your cries were pitifully weak...
...silly little breeder's left her kids!!!
mew mew mew...
...doesn't sound good...
...the first baby we took out didn't move... he was cold and didn't seem to be breathing...
...we left the poor little thing in a box on soft tissue, to bury in the morning... the others we fed warm milk with an eyedropper...
2% LAIT
...all night long the dead kitten lay alone in the kitchen
...while we slept with the others to give them warmth.
...the next day I took the three live babies to the vet...
...four days old, eh... I doubt they'll live without their natural mother, but...



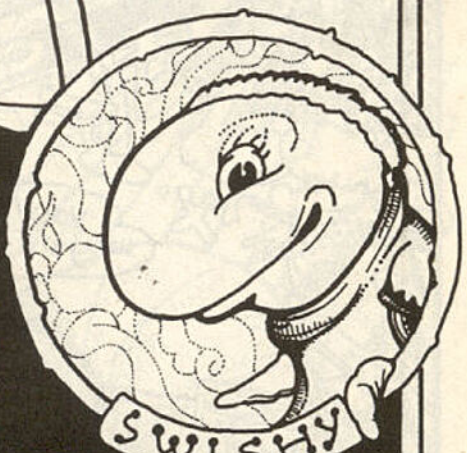
...dedicated to Sushi (the real Toaster), Butler, Zania and thanx to Annie !!!

Animal Silliness Studios presents

A SWISHY FISHY CARTOON

IN

"RAVE & RETURN"



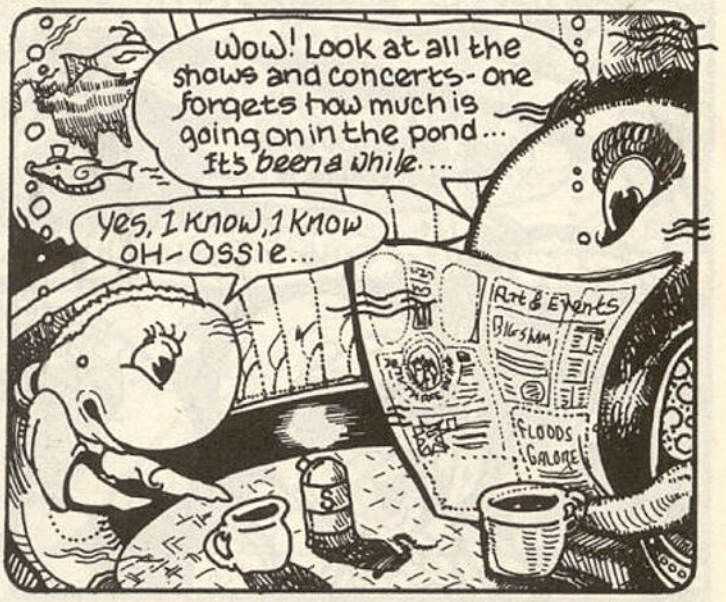
M.J. GOLDBERG — ☆ WITH SPECIAL © 1993 THANKS TO ERIC AND MAIA! ☆

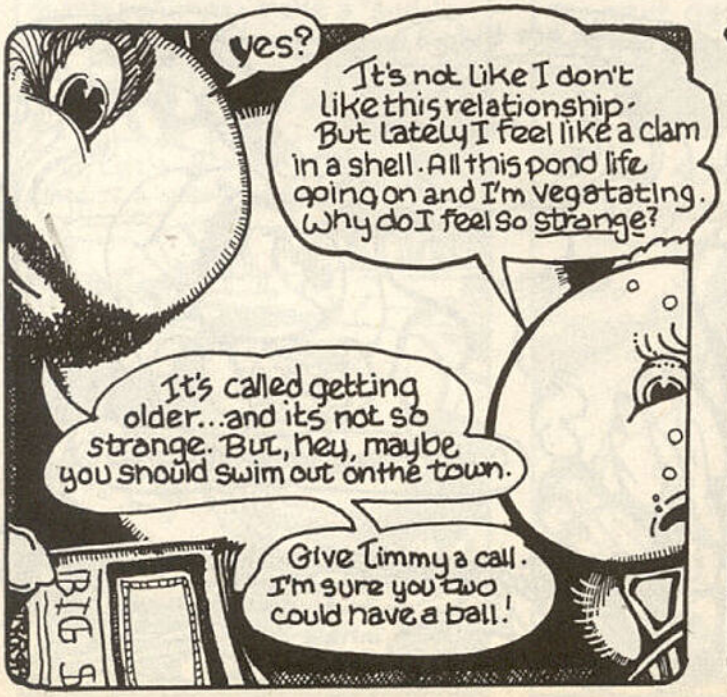
UPDATE '93

Meet Swishy Fishy – that cute, young boyfish/toy of the eighties. He's been out of circulation for a while. After spending most of his 20-something years searching for Mr. Right, Swishy finally met, fell in love and settled down with....

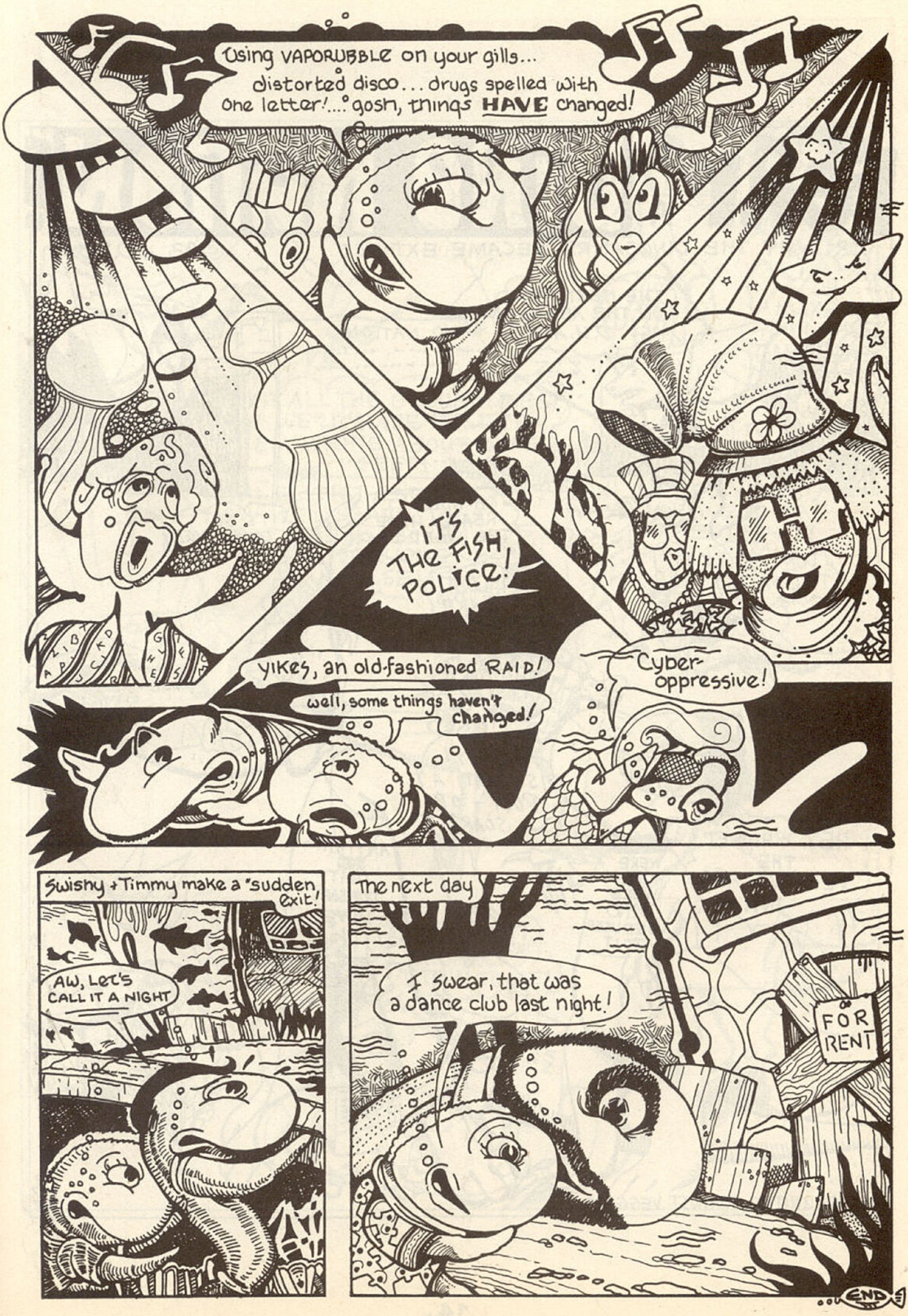
Oswald Daddy-formerly Orca Daddy – a 40-something Leatherfish. Oswald, tired from the whips and chains scene, cleans up his act and goes searching for a "true" relationship. And guess who he finds.....

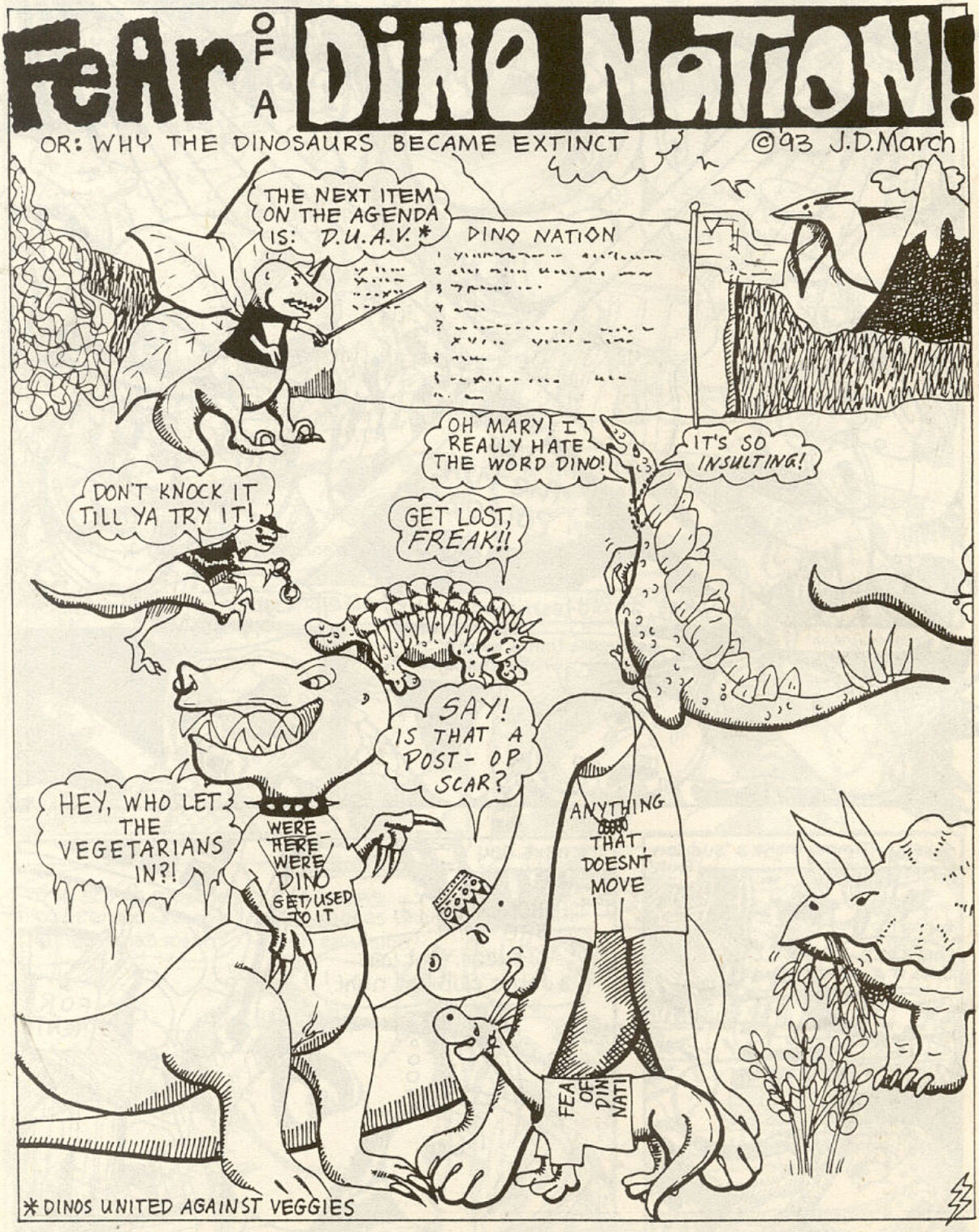
We meet them now, a couple years on...





LATER
Hey, it sounds like Disco Music...
Is this the place??
Cyberplace!
once inside...
yow! it is disco but why are they playing it Too Fast!
Cybernow.
Girlfish, it's Romper Room- with ashtrays!
Meric, here, you guys- X-time-interface now?
EX- WHAT?
Cyber ingestion!
Is this X like that orange algae we took on our trip to the 1960's
GRAVITY!!
X-Smart DRINK
yea, sort of... but updated
GIVE ME TWO "MARCIA BRADYS" AND A "BOOTSIE"!
This stuff's suppose to counteract with the X. What's that mean?
It means this tastes like fish emulsion!
EEK! What are those?
Cybercool! vapo-rabbits!
no, Kids, you don't inhale it!


Using VAPORUBBLE on your gills... distorted disco... drugs spelled with one letter!... gosh, things HAVE changed!
IT'S THE FISH POLICE!
yikes, an old-fashioned RAID!
well, some things haven't changed!
Cyber-oppressive!
Swishy + Timmy make a "sudden exit!
AW, LET'S CALL IT A NIGHT
The next day
I swear, that was a dance club last night!
FOR RENT
END


FEAR OF A DINO NATION!
OR: WHY THE DINOSAURS BECAME EXTINCT
©'93 J.D.March
THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS: D.U.A.V.*
DINO NATION
OH MARY! I REALLY HATE THE WORD DINO!
IT'S SO INSULTING!
DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YA TRY IT!
GET LOST, FREAK!!
SAY! IS THAT A POST-OP SCAR?
HEY, WHO LET THE VEGETARIANS IN?!
WERE HERE- WERE DINO GET USED TO IT
ANYTHING THAT, DOESNT MOVE
FEAR OF DINOSAURS
*DINOS UNITED AGAINST VEGGIES

ACTUALLY, I LIKE MEAT AND VEGGIES IN MY DIET!
DINO'S FROM HELL
OH... MAKE UP YOUR MIND OMNIVORE!
AG! LOOKIT ALL THE GROUNDLINGS! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO 'EM WHINE ABOUT SORE FEET!
UGH! ELITIST FLYERS! NOW WE'LL HAVE TO SEAT THEM ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE!
OK! I NEED NAMES! WHO'S WILLING TO BE ARRESTED AT THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST JURASSIC PARK ON TUESDAY?
NOBODY KNOWS I'M DINO
YICK... STUFFING HER FACE AGAIN.
EAT, HONEY, EAT! SHE LOOKS THIN TO ME!
DAMNED DINOS

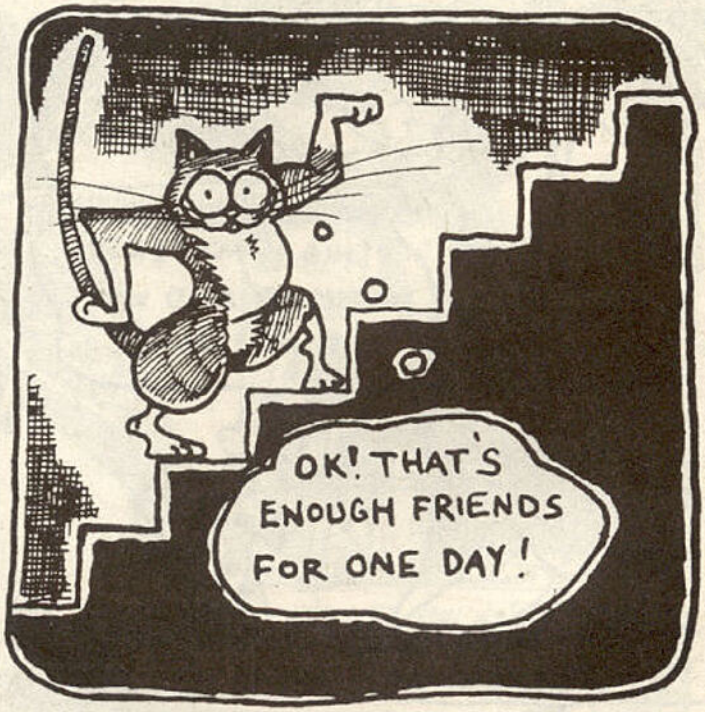
PORTLAND BIRD
PORTLAND BIRD AND SPOTED OWL LIVE TOGETHER IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP (WHICH IS GOOD FOR THEM)-
BUT FEARED AND MISUNDERSTOOD BY THOSE WHO FLY THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW..
DAYS IN THE MILITARY
- vaughn '94
HALT!
WHO TRESPASSES HERE UPON THE NATIONAL HISTORIC MILITARY SUPERFUND PARK. WHERE IS YOUR PERMIT AND USER FEE!?
WHOA!
WHAT?
I'M A JAY IN THE MILITARY! THERE'S MY COMMANDER, GENERAL PORKBARREL SCHWARTZ-SCHWINE. BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY'S "DON'T HATCH, DON'T SHELL" POLICY I CAN BE HIS EQUAL.
YICK! I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO WADE IN THERE WITHOUT MY RUBBERS.
HOW CAN YOU BE A JAY WITHOUT FIRST "HATCHING OUT?"
"DON'T SHELL?" WHAT KIND OF FOWLAPHOBIC SHIT IS THAT? LIVE BIRTH BIGOTRY SUCKS!!
IT'S NOT HOW YOU'RE LAID, BUT HOW YOU SERVE YOUR COUNTRY.
OR SERVED TO YOUR COUNTRY SCRAMBLED LIKE A OMELETTE
COME, DEAR... LET'S GO SWALLOW SOME MICE.

A DAY WITH CHICKEN
WE'RE NOT FUNNY...
YOU ARE!
©1993 DIANE DiMASSA
IN JUST A MINUTE, I'LL TAKE YOU TO MEET MY FRIENDS!!
?
THIS IS MY PERSON, HOTHEAD, AND WE ARE IN LOVE!
MY PALS, BOOGUMS AND HENRY, WHO ARE BROTHERS, AND CATMAN AND MISS WOO!
OK! LET'S GO OUT! OH LOOK! IT'S MY SPIDER FRIEND!! WANT TO SAY ANYTHING TO THE PEOPLE, SPIDER??
YES! COULD YOU PLEASE QUIT STOMPING ME EVERY CHANCE YOU GET?!?
♪ COME ON, VOGUE ♪
OH, HERE COMES MY PAL, SNAKE!

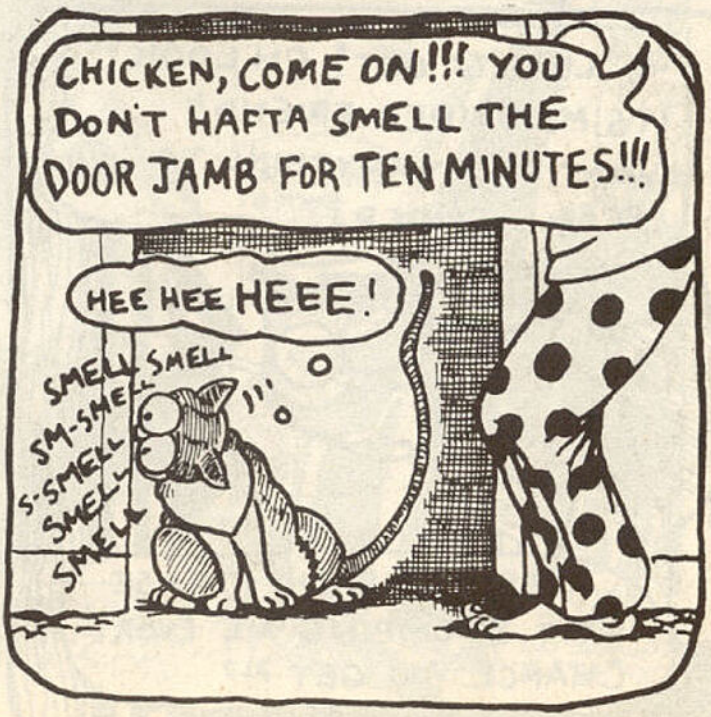
HIYA, SNAKE! HEY, HOW COME PEOPLE ARE SO AFRAID OF YOU?
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
SHEEIIT! THEY ASCARED OF EVERYTHING, AIN'T THEY?

GASP! SSSSH!

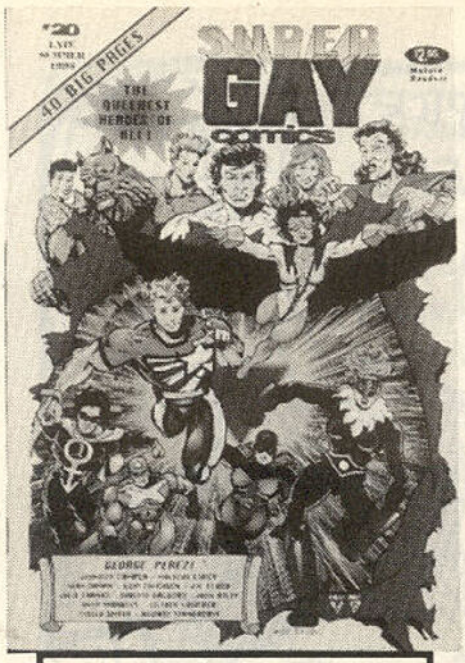
GOTCHA!!
WHAP!


OK! THAT'S ENOUGH FRIENDS FOR ONE DAY!

WELL, HI THERE! FORGET YOUR KEY?
UM-HMM
WELL COME IN MY BABY!


CHICKEN, COME ON!!! YOU DON'T HAFTA SMELL THE DOOR JAMB FOR TEN MINUTES!!!
HEE HEE HEEE!
SMELL
SM-SMELL
S-SMELL
SMELL
SMELL

BUT IF I DON'T THAN HOW WILL I GET YOU TO YELL LIKE THAT??
PICK PICK PULL
RIP SHRED
PICK
AHHHH!
DON'T YOU HAVE A LESBIAN AVENGERS MEETING TO GO TO OR SOMETHING?
PLEASE CHICKEN, JUST ONE DANCE!
OH ALRITE. I GUESS I CAN FORCE MYSELF!
OKOK LET GO I GOTTA GO I GOTTA GO!!!
OWCH!
AHHHHHH
BYE-BYE

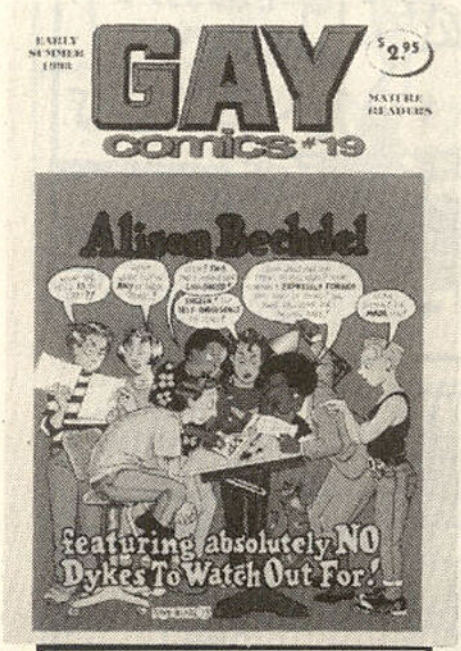


GAY comics BACK ISSUES

George Perez,
Jennifer Camper,
Malachy Covey, Sean
Doran, Kurt Erichsen,
J.A. Fludd, Julie Franki,
Roberta Gregory.
Robert Kirby, Stephen
Lowther, Andy
Mangels, Cheela Smith,
Howard Stangroom

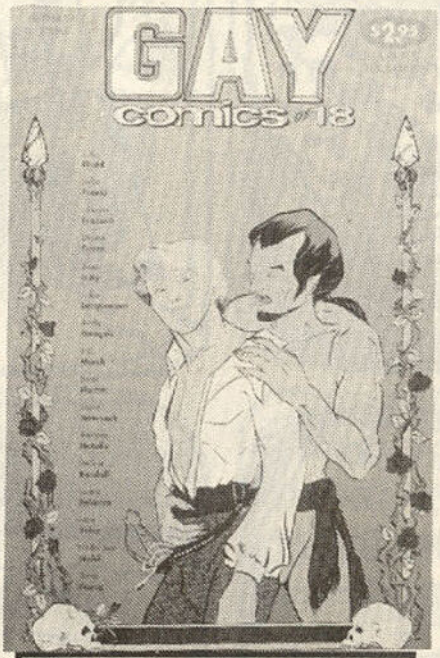
IT'S MORE THAN A *LIFESTYLE* . . .
IT'S AN *ATTITUDE!*

Best Anthology of 1993!
Comic Creators Guild Awards
50% WOMEN - 50% MEN
40 pages each!

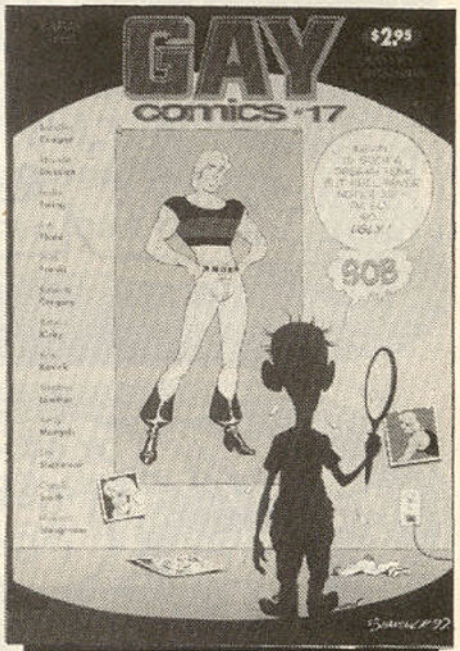


Allison Bechdel
creator of four
best-selling
Dykes To Watch Out For books
presents 40 pages of
all-new material!

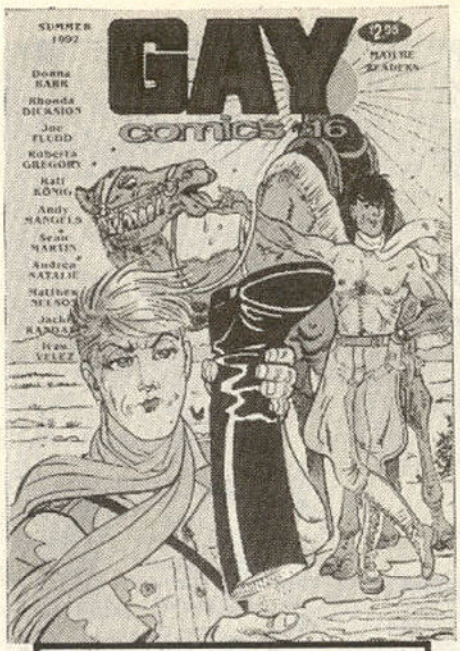
"Coming Out Story"
"Power Of Prayer"
"True Confessions"
"Servants To The Cause"



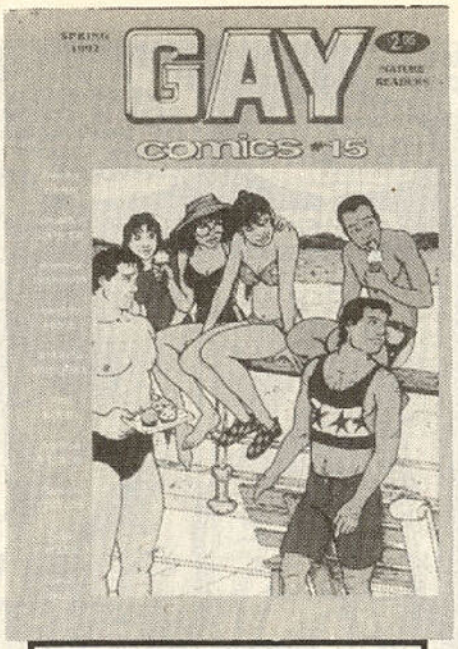
Ivan Velez Jr.
Julia Lacquement
Craig Hamilton
Tony Harris
J.A. Fludd, Julie Franki,
Leanne Franson,
Diana Green, Joan Hilty,
J.D. March,
Sean Martin,
Steve Matusczak,
Andrea Natalie,
Jackie Randall,
Laura Rebecca, Linda
Sue Welch, Dave Young



Eric Shanower
Roberta Gregory
Kris Kovick
plus Jennifer Camper,
Rhonda Dicksion,
Leslie Ewing,
J.A. Fludd,
Julie Franki,
Robert Kirby,
Stephen Lowther,
Andy Mangels,
Cheela Smith,
Howard Stangroom



Donna Barr
Rhonda Dicksion, J.A. Fludd, Roberta Gregory, Ralf Konig, Andy Mangels, Sean Martin, Andrea Natalie, Matthew Nelson, Jacki Randall, Ivan Velez, Jr.



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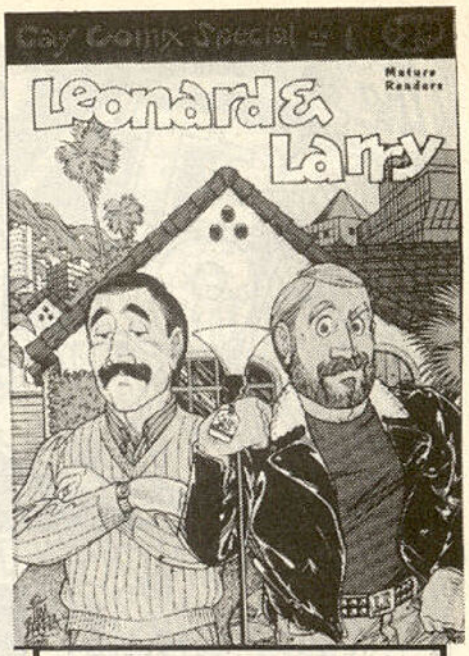

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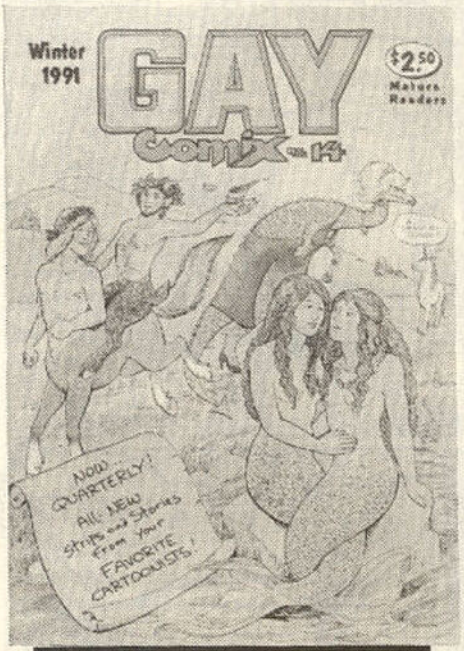

Howard Cruse
Daerick Gross, Sr.
Tim Barela, Jennifer Camper, Leslie Ewing, Vaughn Frick, Michael Goldberg, Roberta Gregory, Joan Hilty, Ralf Konig, Stephen Lowther, Andy Mangels, J.D. March, Andrea Natalie, Jacki Randall, Stan Shaw, Howard Stangroom, Noreen Stevens, Dave Young

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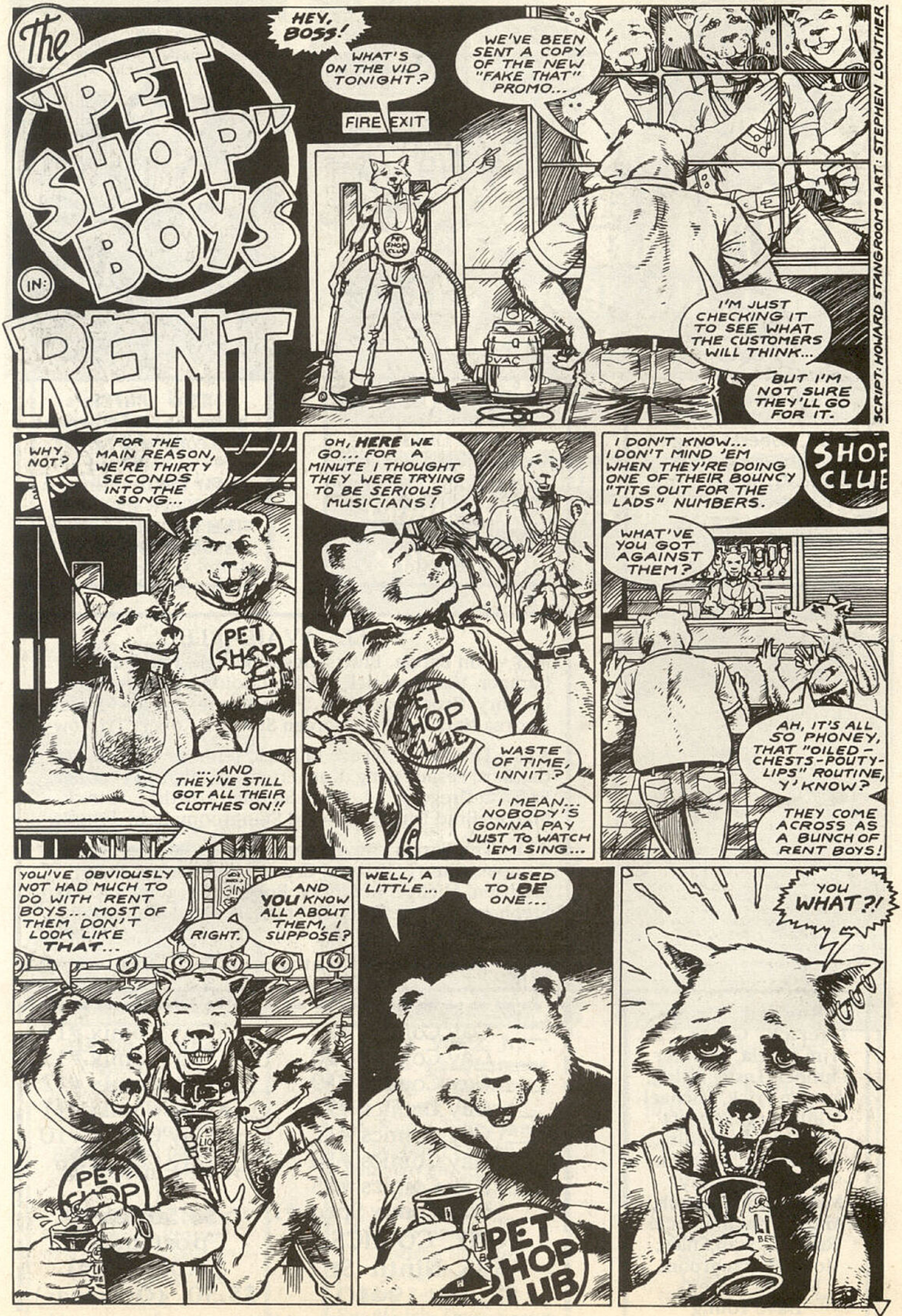
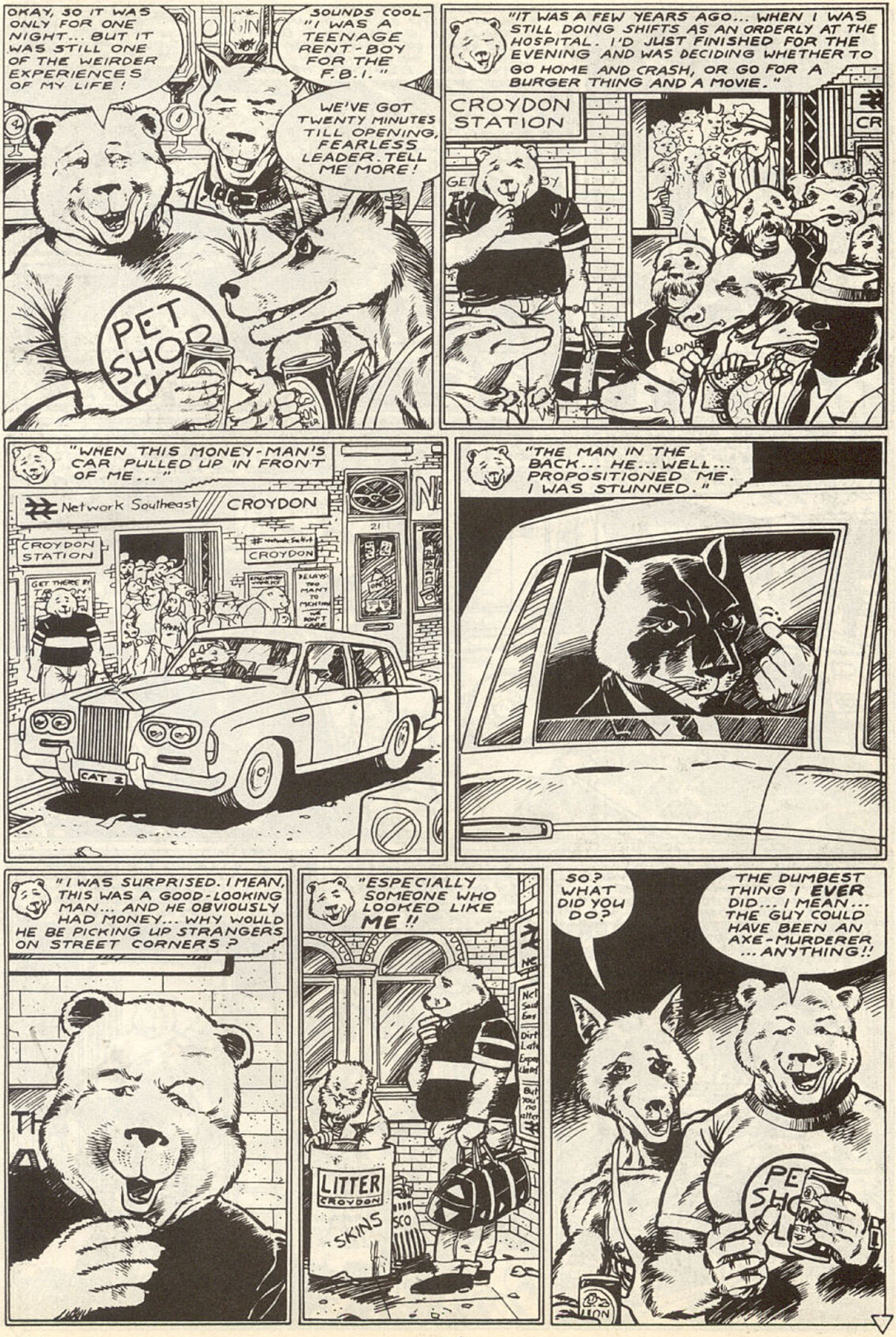

The "PET SHOP" BOYS IN: RENT
HEY, BOSS!
WHAT'S ON THE VID TONIGHT?
FIRE EXIT
WE'VE BEEN SENT A COPY OF THE NEW "FAKE THAT" PROMO...
I'M JUST CHECKING IT TO SEE WHAT THE CUSTOMERS WILL THINK...
BUT I'M NOT SURE THEY'LL GO FOR IT.
SCRIPT: HOWARD STANGROOM • ART: STEPHEN LOWTHER
WHY NOT?
FOR THE MAIN REASON, WE'RE THIRTY SECONDS INTO THE SONG...
... AND THEY'VE STILL GOT ALL THEIR CLOTHES ON!!
OH, HERE WE GO... FOR A MINUTE I THOUGHT THEY WERE TRYING TO BE SERIOUS MUSICIANS!
WASTE OF TIME, INNIT?
I MEAN... NOBODY'S GONNA PAY JUST TO WATCH 'EM SING...
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T MIND 'EM WHEN THEY'RE DOING ONE OF THEIR BOUNCY "TITS OUT FOR THE LADS" NUMBERS.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT AGAINST THEM?
AH, IT'S ALL SO PHONEY, THAT "OILED-CHESTS-POUTY-LIPS" ROUTINE, Y'KNOW?
THEY COME ACROSS AS A BUNCH OF RENT BOYS!
YOU'VE OBVIOUSLY NOT HAD MUCH TO DO WITH RENT BOYS... MOST OF THEM DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT...
RIGHT.
AND YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THEM, I SUPPOSE?
WELL, A LITTLE...
I USED TO BE ONE...
YOU WHAT?!


OKAY, SO IT WAS ONLY FOR ONE NIGHT... BUT IT WAS STILL ONE OF THE WEIRDER EXPERIENCES OF MY LIFE!
SOUNDS COOL- "I WAS A TEENAGE RENT-BOY FOR THE F.B.I."
WE'VE GOT TWENTY MINUTES TILL OPENING, FEARLESS LEADER. TELL ME MORE!
PET SHOP
"IT WAS A FEW YEARS AGO... WHEN I WAS STILL DOING SHIFTS AS AN ORDERLY AT THE HOSPITAL. I'D JUST FINISHED FOR THE EVENING AND WAS DECIDING WHETHER TO GO HOME AND CRASH, OR GO FOR A BURGER THING AND A MOVIE."
CROYDON STATION
"WHEN THIS MONEY-MAN'S CAR PULLED UP IN FRONT OF ME..."
Network Southeast
CROYDON
CROYDON STATION
CAT 2
"THE MAN IN THE BACK... HE... WELL... PROPOSITIONED ME. I WAS STUNNED."
"I WAS SURPRISED. I MEAN, THIS WAS A GOOD-LOOKING MAN... AND HE OBVIOUSLY HAD MONEY... WHY WOULD HE BE PICKING UP STRANGERS ON STREET CORNERS?"
"ESPECIALLY SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE ME!!"
LITTER
CROYDON
SKINS
SO? WHAT DID YOU DO?
THE DUMBEST THING I EVER DID... I MEAN... THE GUY COULD HAVE BEEN AN AXE-MURDERER ... ANYTHING!!
PET SHOP

"HE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL I COULDN'T BREATHE. I JUST STOOD, STARING LIKE AN IDIOT, UNTIL HE BECKONED ME TOWARDS HIM..."
"I GOT INTO THE BED. HE PULLED ME CLOSE TO HIM, LOOKED INTO MY EYES..."
"AND THEN HE BURST INTO TEARS!!"
"IT WENT ON LIKE THAT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. NOTHING SEXUAL HAPPENED AT ALL. HE WEPT AND PLEADED, TALKING INCESSANTLY IN A LANGUAGE I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND, BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS... OR SOMETHING."
"I TRIED MY BEST TO GIVE HIM WHAT COMFORT I COULD, HOLDING HIM, TALKING TO HIM... EVENTUALLY HE SETTLED DOWN AND WE DRIFTED OFF TO SLEEP."

SO YOU WENT WITH HIM, THEN.
UH-HUH.
"WHAT CAN I SAY? IT WAS STUPID. I KNEW IT COULD BE DANGEROUS, BUT I WAS CURIOUS TO SEE WHY HE PICKED ME, HOW THIS WOULD PLAY OUT. I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO RESIST A MYSTERY. BESIDES, HE WAS GORGEOUS."
"HE TOLD THE CHAUFFEUR -MEAN-LOOKING BUGGER- TO TAKE US TO THE PALACE HOTEL."
"WE PULLED INTO THE HOTEL'S CAR PARK AND TOOK A PRIVATE ELEVATOR UP TO HIS SUITE. NO NEED FOR EMBARRASSING ENQUIRIES AT RECEPTION, EH?
EXIT
"HE DISMISSED THE CHAUFFEUR FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT — I WASN'T SAD TO SEE THE BACK OF HIM — AND WE WERE ALONE."
3
"HE OFFERED ME A DRINK. I DECLINED. I WAS SO NERVOUS I'D'VE THROWN UP. THEN HE SUGGESTED WE GO TO THE BEDROOM..."
"HE SUGGESTED I USE ONE OF THE BATHROOMS TO GET READY."
OH GOD. OH GOD. THIS IS TERRIBLE! I LOOK LIKE MY PASSPORT PICTURE.
WHERE'S THE INDUSTRIAL -STRENGTH CLEARASIL WHEN YOU NEED IT?
"I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, BUT WHEN I EMERGED FROM THE BATHROOM MY HEART JUST STOPPED!"

"WHEN I WOKE UP, HE WAS GONE."
"I GOT DRESSED IN A HURRY. I WAS CONVINCED I WAS GOING TO GET STIFFED WITH THE HOTEL BILL, SO I WANTED TO GET MOVING. I NOTICED AN ENVELOPE FOR ME ON THE TABLE, SO I GRABBED IT AND WALKED OUT."
"SAFELY OUT OF THE HOTEL AND ON THE BUS, I OPENED THE ENVELOPE. THERE WAS NO NOTE - ONLY A BLANK CHEQUE WITH MY NAME ON IT!"
"IT WAS DRAWN ON A BANK I'D NEVER HEARD OF, SO I DIDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY, OF COURSE."
WELL... AT LEAST IT'LL BE AN INTERESTING SOUVENIR.
I WONDER WHAT THE GOING RATE FOR AN ACT OF CONTRITION IS THESE DAYS?
WELL, IT'S OPENING TIME...
BETTER LET THE PUNTERS IN.
HEY, HOLD ON!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE IT THERE! DIDN'T YOU TRY TO CASH THE CHEQUE?
PET SHOP CLUB
OF COURSE I DID!
HOW THE HELL DO YOU THINK I GOT THE MONEY TO OPEN THIS PLACE ON AN ORDERLY'S SALARY?
PET SHOP CLUB
END

THE FAMILY DOG

100% TRUE!!

Joan Hilty
©1993

I THINK MY DOG IS GAY. AIN'T THAT PERFECT?

"Ripley"

WE FOUND HIM IN A NORTHERN CALIFORNIA POUND, A YEAR-OLD STRAY MUTT, PAST NOT KNOWN.

OUR SUSPICIONS WERE AROUSED BY HIS ODD REACTIONS TO PEOPLE.

HE *ADORED* WOMEN.

LOVE MEEE!

HE WAS *DAMN MEAN* TO MEN.

UH...HE'S A LITTLE *WEIRD* AROUND GUYS, SORRY...

GRRR GRRR

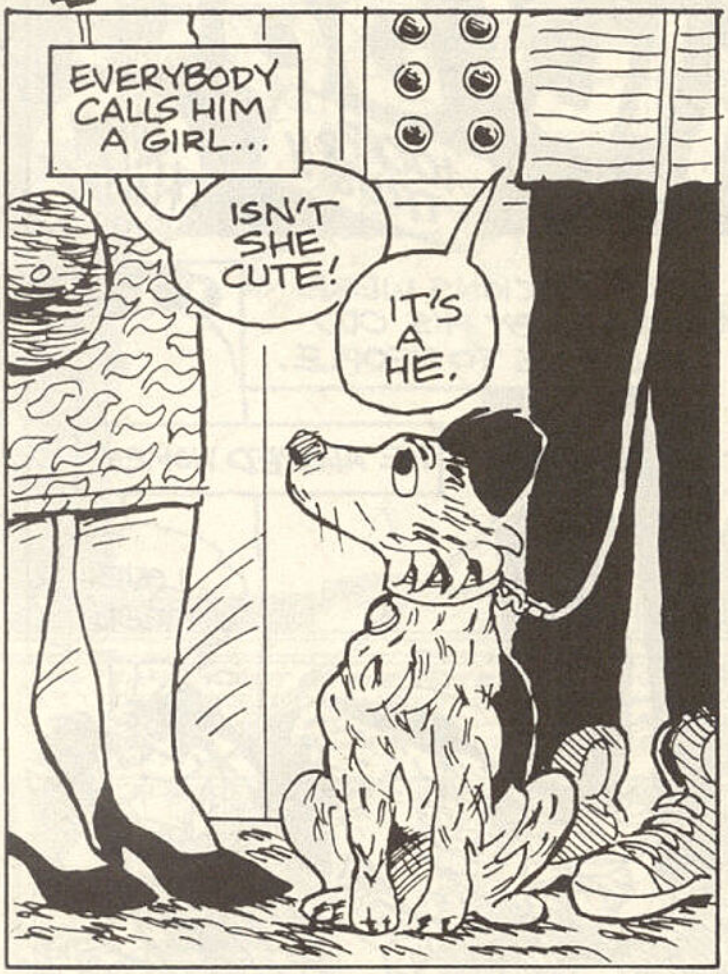
WE DIDN'T KNOW *WHY*.

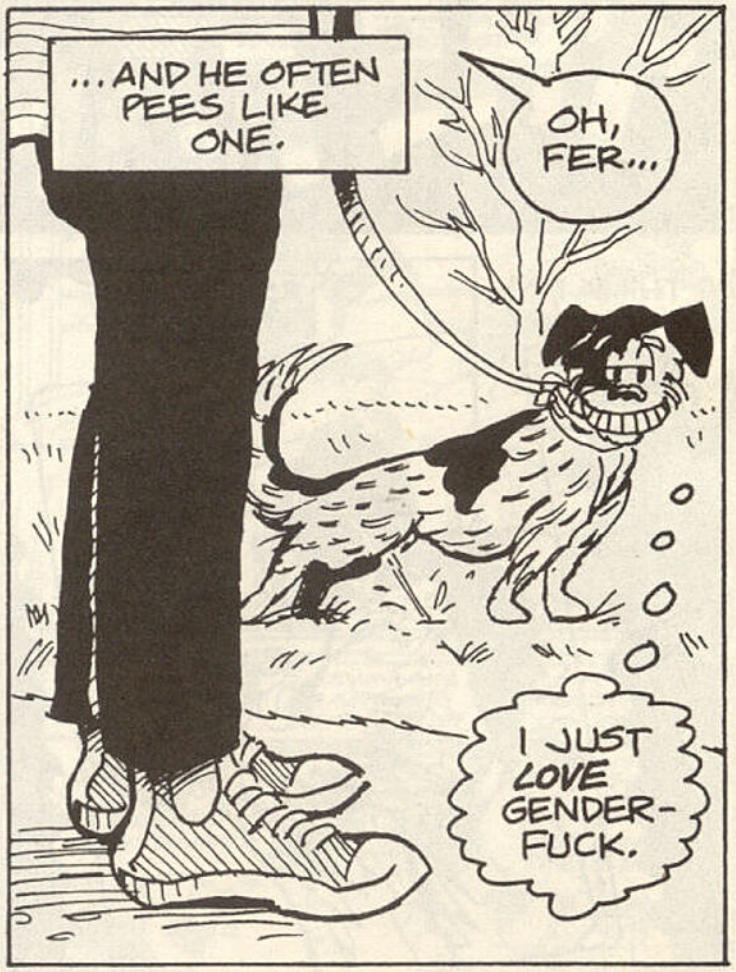
FRANKLY, IT WAS EMBARRASSING.

GREAT. NOW EVERYONE WILL SAY, "THERE GO THE LESBIANS AND THEIR MAN-HATING DOG!"

EXCEPT HAVE YOU NOTICED HE DOESN'T SEEM TO MIND *GAY* MEN?

THAT'S RIGHT... THE LI'L TWERP HAD *GAYDAR*. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL....



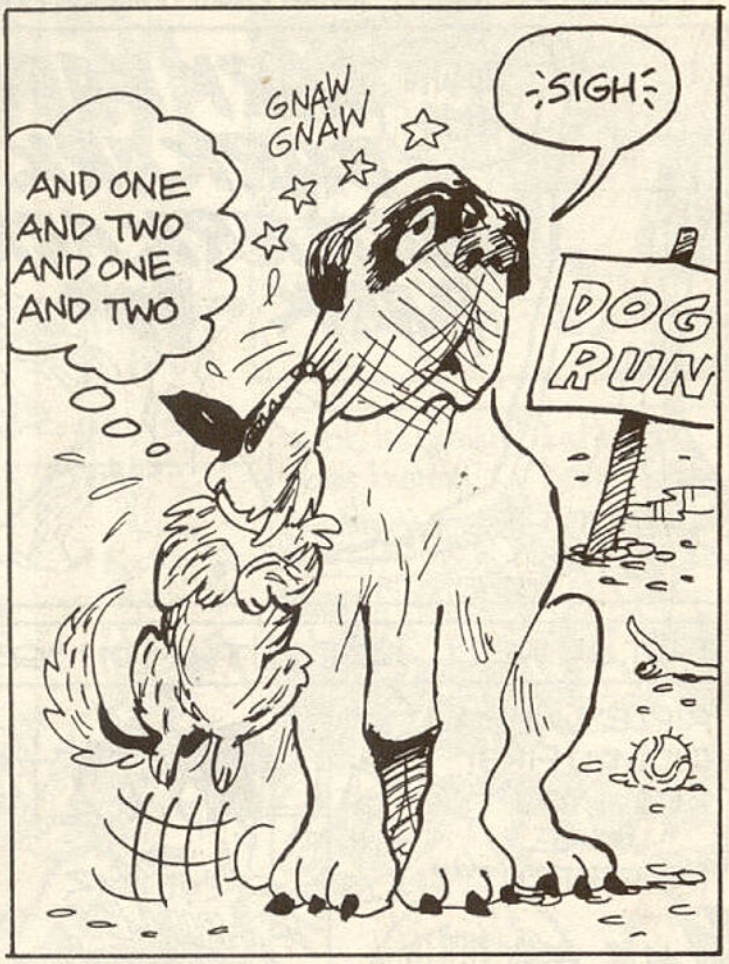


HE'S A PARTICULAR EATER.

HE HAS A VERY ACTIVE SOCIAL LIFE.

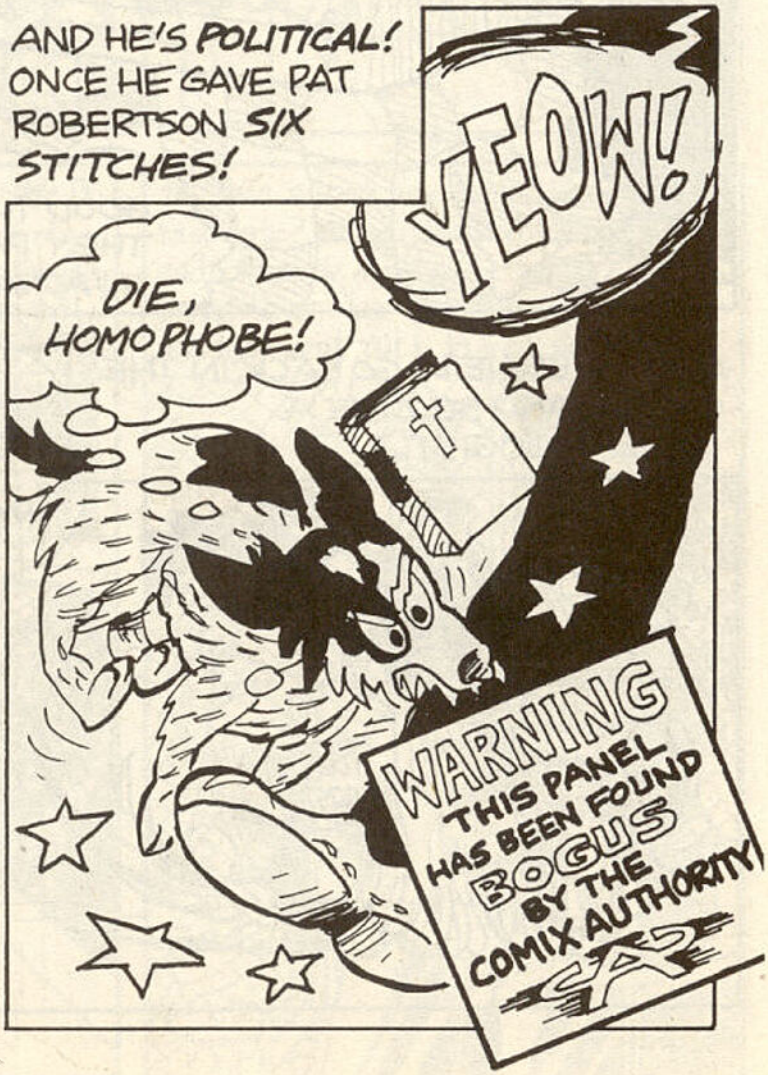
PLUS HE HAS A *FIT* IF HE DOESN'T DO HIS *DAILY WORKOUT*...

IT'S HARD WORK BEING BEAUTIFUL.



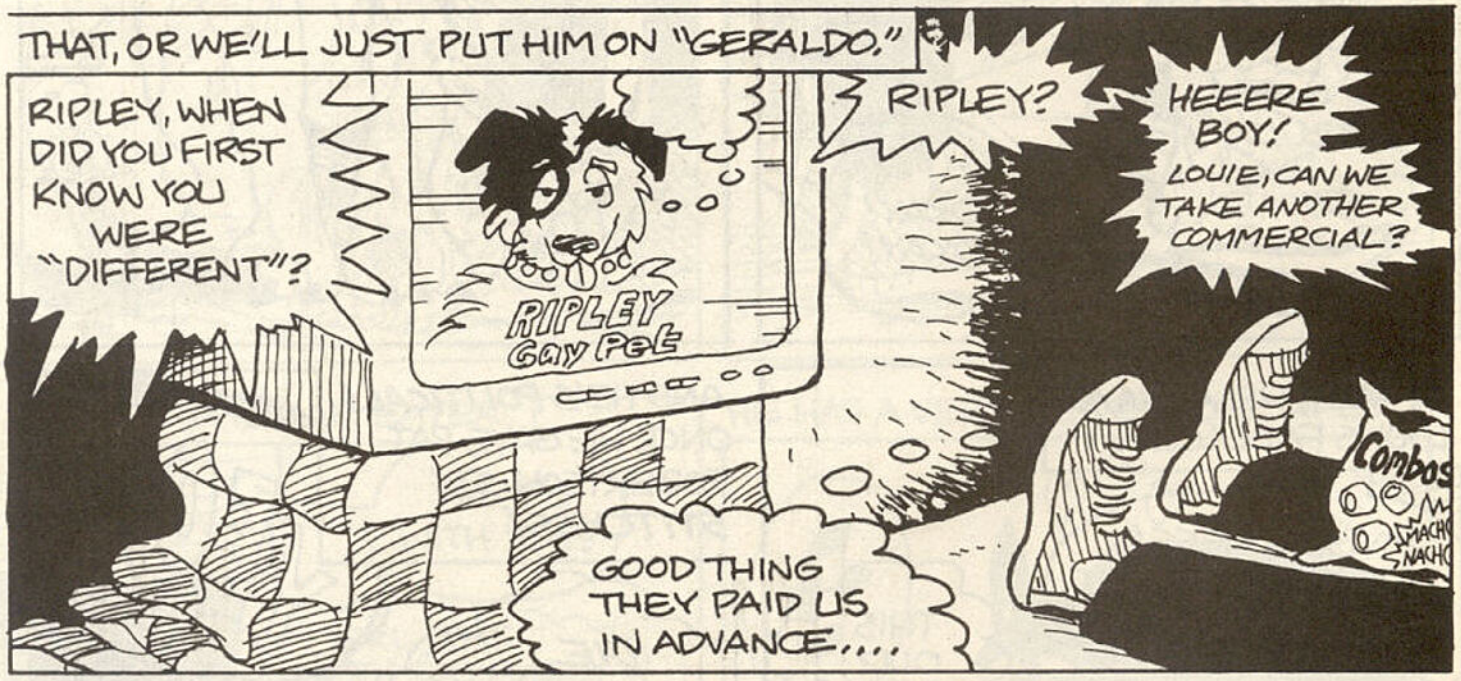
IN FACT, HE *ALWAYS* LOOKS FABULOUS.

AND HE'S *POLITICAL!* ONCE HE GAVE PAT ROBERTSON *SIX STITCHES!*

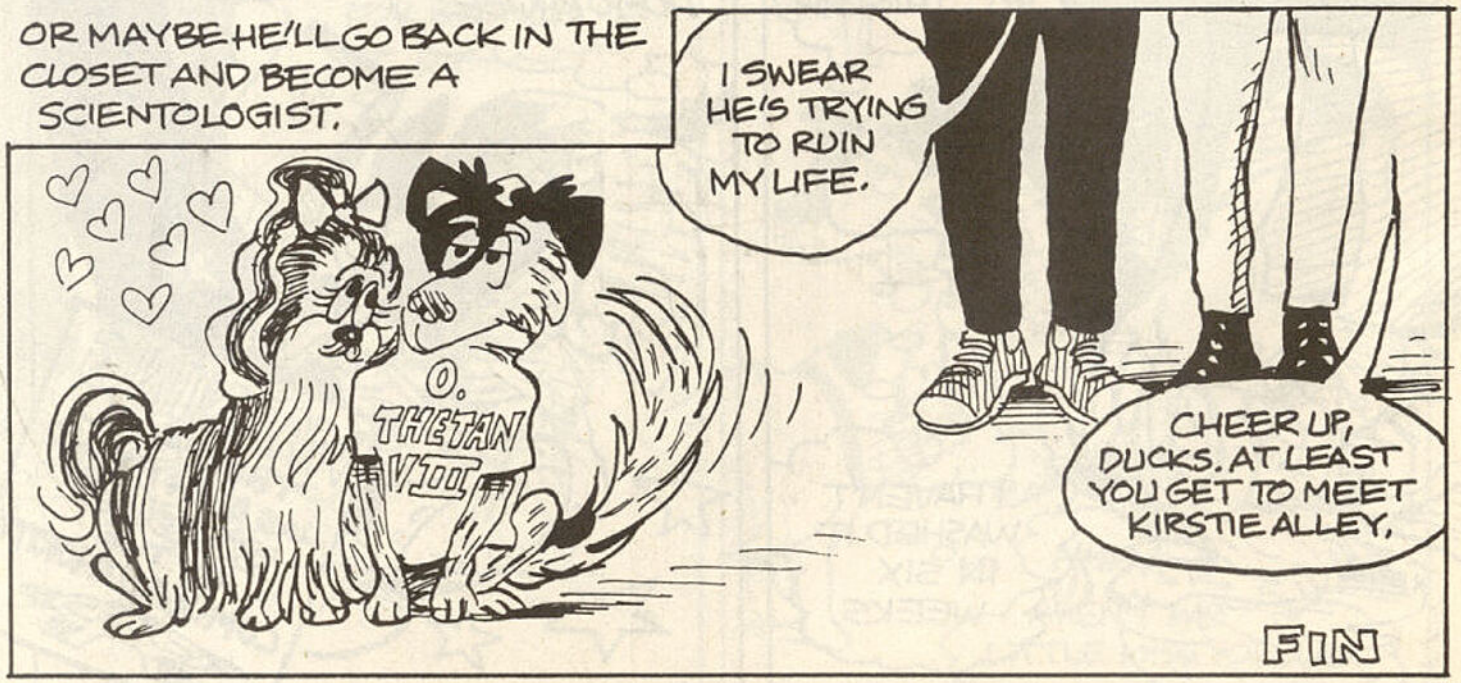


WE'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR OUR QUEER PUP. WE THINK HE'LL BECOME A LEADING ACTIVIST, FIGHTING TIRELESSLY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

THAT, OR WE'LL JUST PUT HIM ON "GERALDO."



OR MAYBE HE'LL GO BACK IN THE CLOSET AND BECOME A SCIENTOLOGIST.

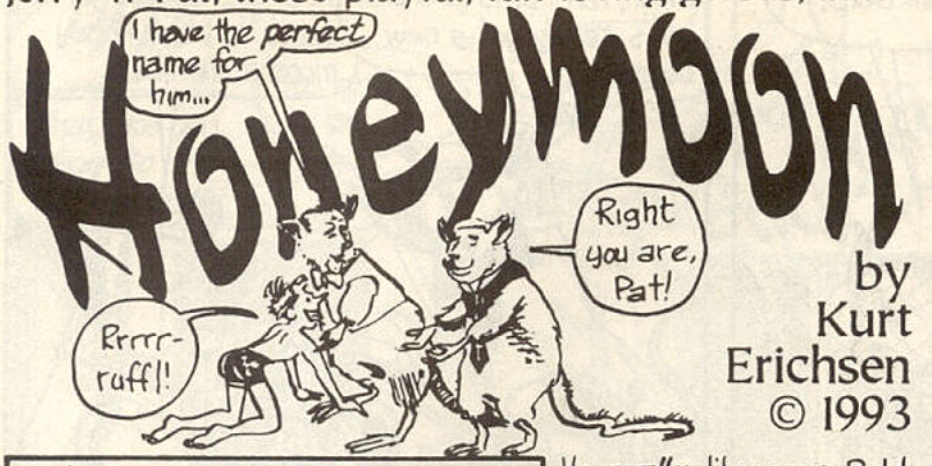


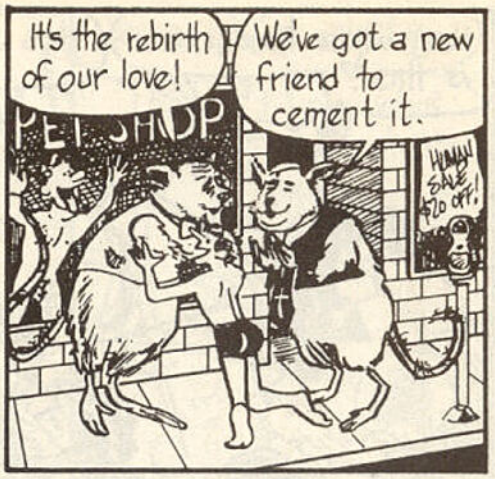
Jerry 'n' Pat, those playful, fun-loving gerbils, in...

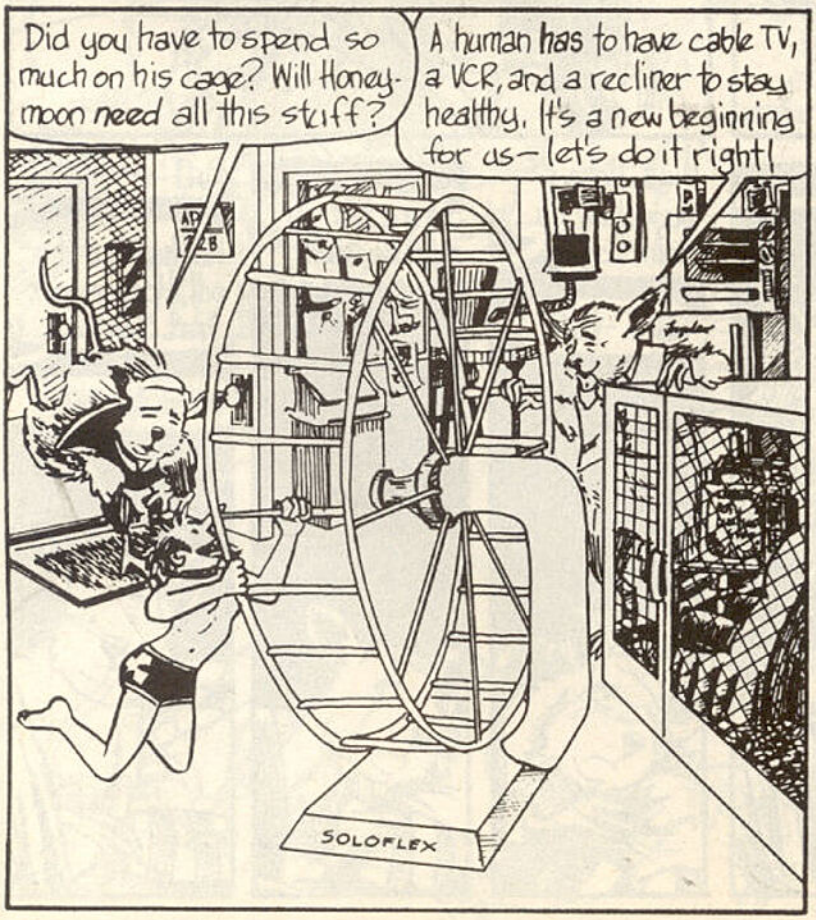
Honeymoon

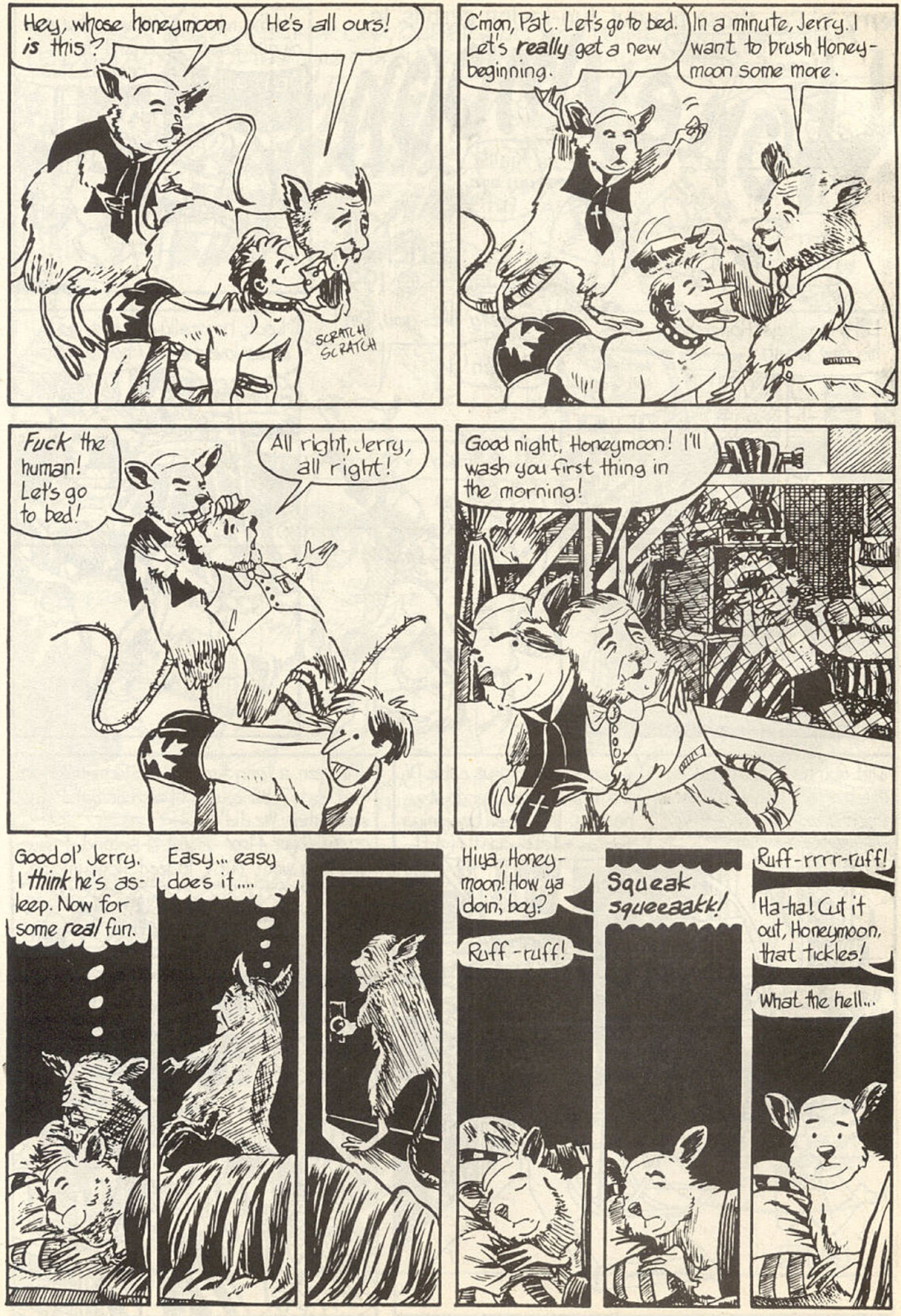
by Kurt Erichsen

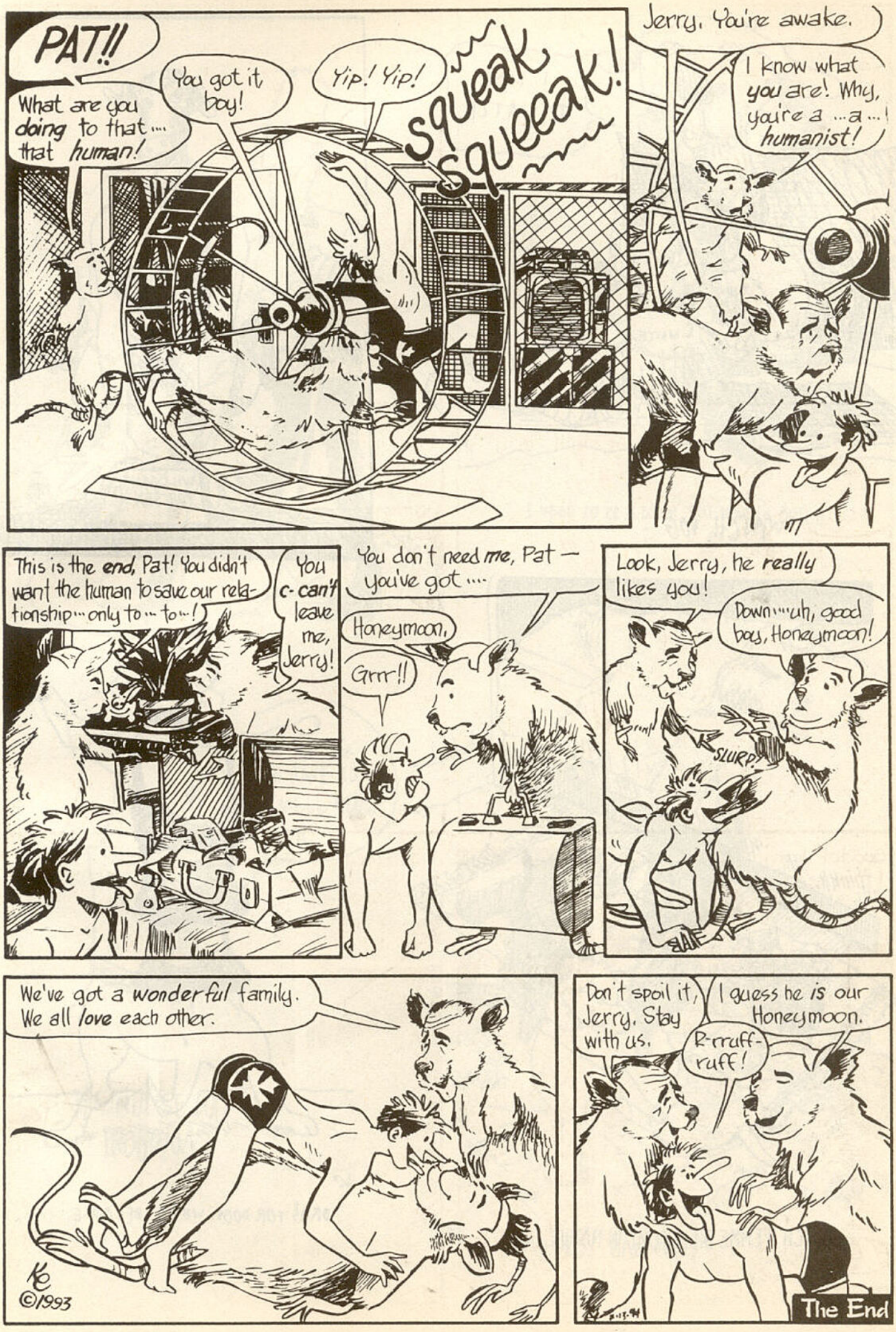
© 1993



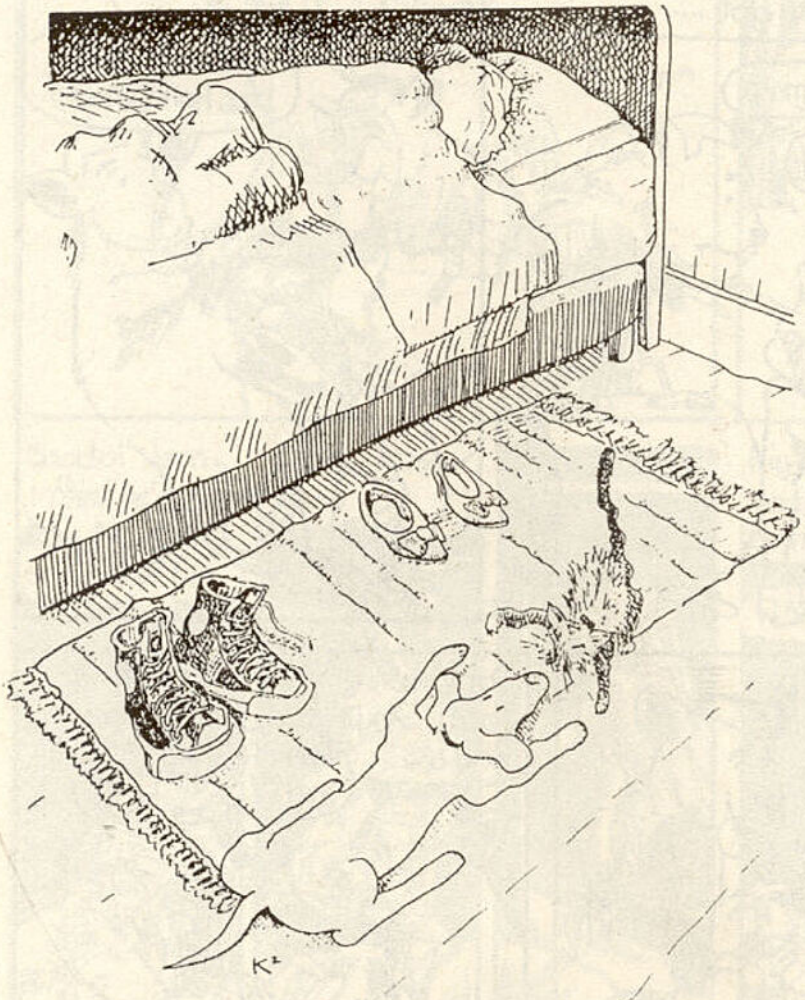




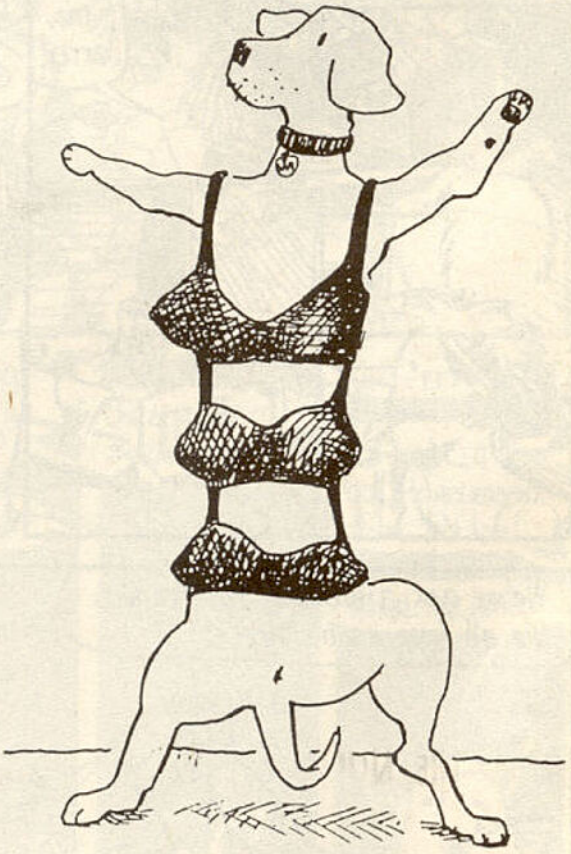

Hey, whose honeymoon is this?
He's all ours!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
C'mon, Pat. Let's go to bed. Let's really get a new beginning.
In a minute, Jerry. I want to brush Honeymoon some more.
Fuck the human! Let's go to bed!
All right, Jerry, all right!
Good night, Honeymoon! I'll wash you first thing in the morning!
Good ol' Jerry. I think he's asleep. Now for some real fun.
Easy... easy does it....
Hiya, Honeymoon! How ya doin', boy?
Ruff-ruff!
Squeak squeeaakk!
Ruff-rrrr-ruff!
Ha-ha! Cut it out, Honeymoon, that tickles!
What the hell...


PAT!!
What are you doing to that.... that human!
You got it, boy!
Yip! Yip!
squeak squeeak!
Jerry. You're awake.
I know what you are! Why, you're a ...a...! humanist!
This is the end, Pat! You didn't want the human to save our relationship... only to... to...!
You c-can't leave me, Jerry!
You don't need me, Pat — you've got....
Honeymoon,
Grrr!!
Look, Jerry, he really likes you!
Down.... uh, good boy, Honeymoon!
SLURP!
We've got a wonderful family. We all love each other.
KC ©1993
Don't spoil it, Jerry. Stay with us.
I guess he is our Honeymoon.
R-rruff-ruff!
The End

WATCH DOG



BUTCH-FEMME DICHOTOMY IN NATURE



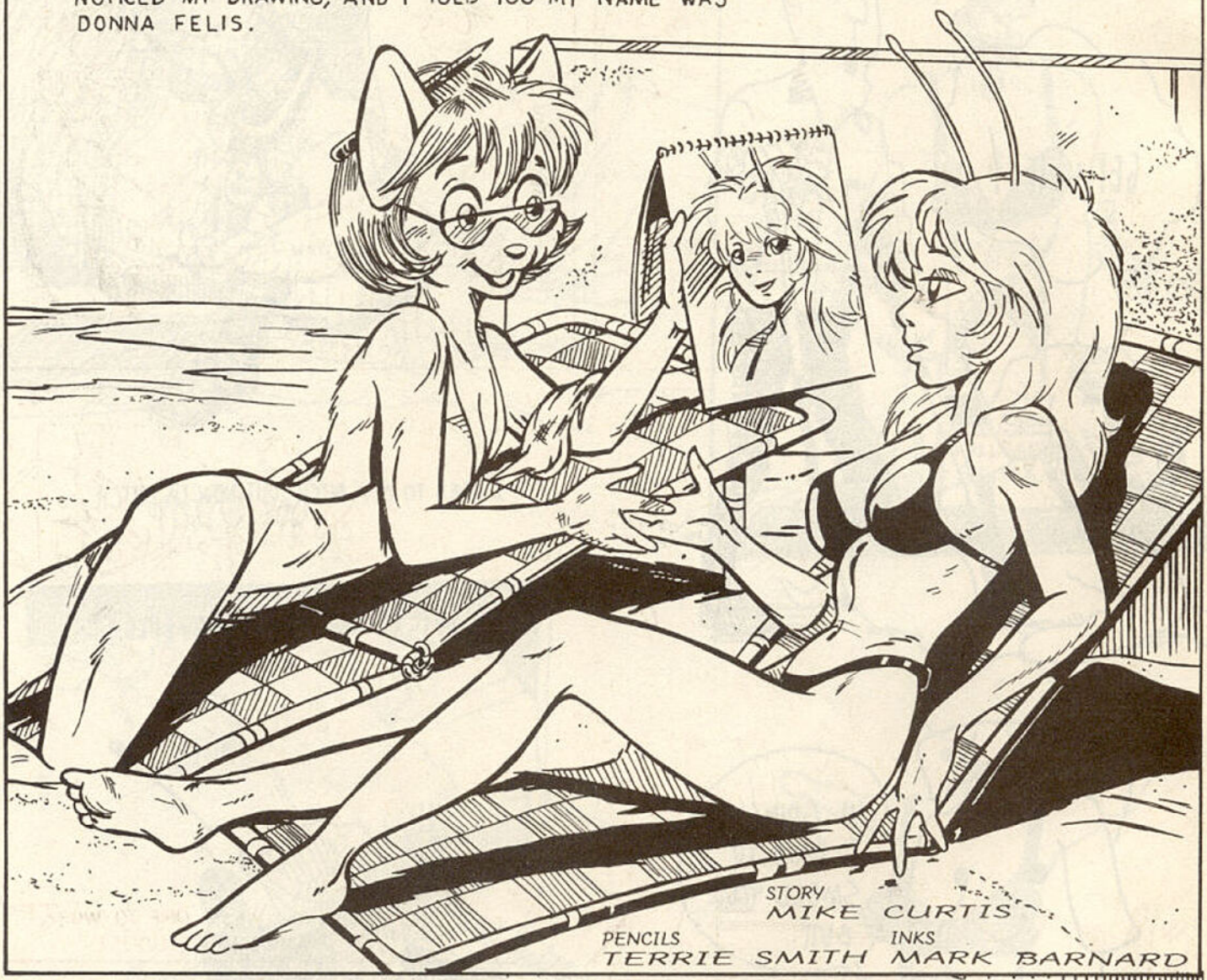
BRAS FOR DOGS. WHY? BECAUSE.

DO YOU REMEMBER ~

WHEN WE FIRST MET? YOU WERE ON VACATION AT ASSATEAGUE ISLAND.

OH, YES. I HAD SEEN YOU BEFORE AT THE BEACH.

I BROUGHT MY SKETCH PAD THAT DAY - TO BREAK THE ICE YOU WERE WEARING THAT LITTLE STRING BIKINI. YOU NOTICED MY DRAWING, AND I TOLD YOU MY NAME WAS DONNA FELIS.



STORY
MIKE CURTIS

PENCILS
TERRIE SMITH

INKS
MARK BARNARD

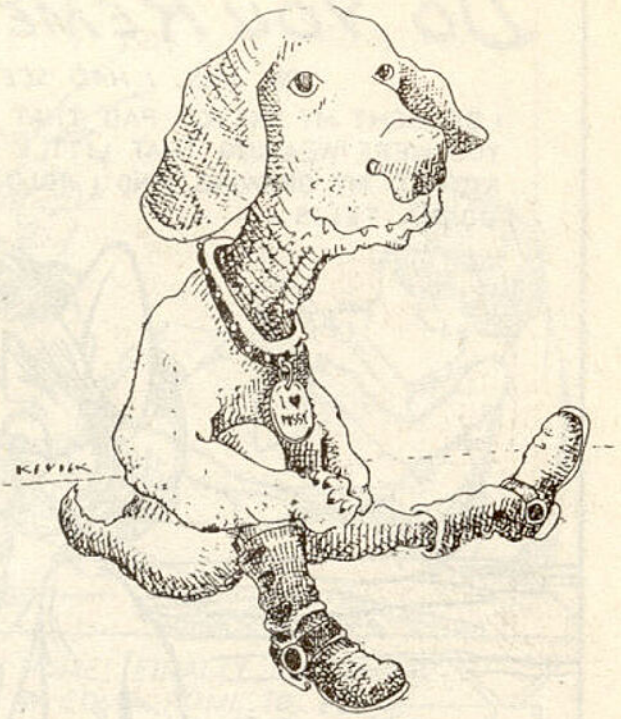
AND I INTRODUCED MYSELF AS TERRI SNOW.

WE SHOOK HANDS -- AND I DIDN'T LET GO.

YOUR HAND WAS SO WARM AND SOFT.

I STARTED RUBBING YOUR PALM WITH MY THUMB. YOUR CHEEKS STARTED GETTING RED, AND YOU WERE HAVING TROUBLE TALKING.

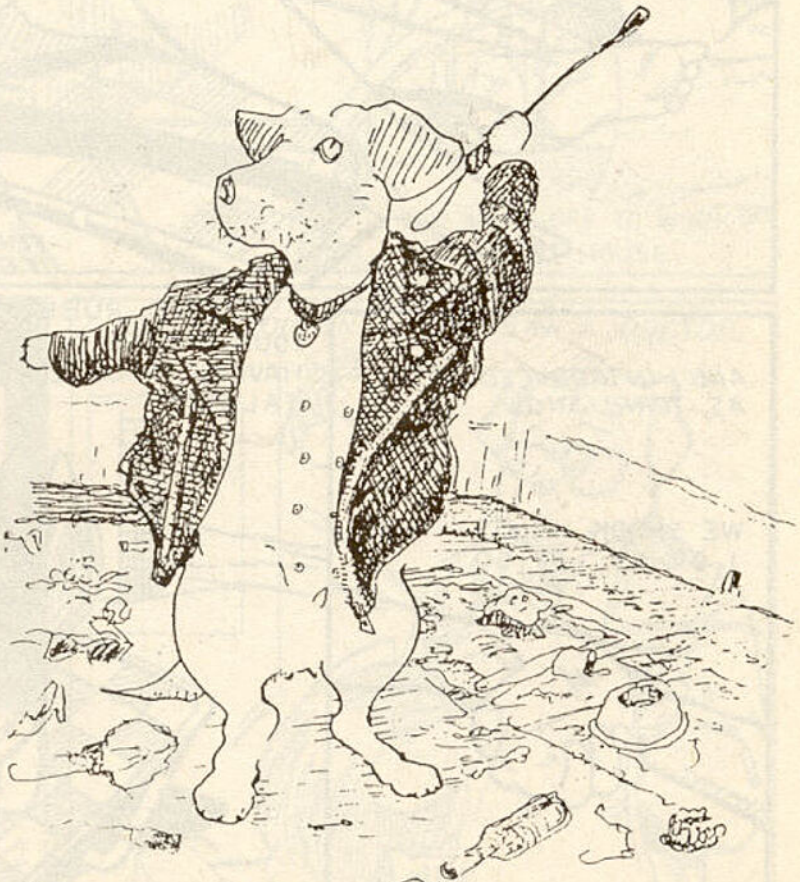
HA! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT! I COULD BARELY LOOK AT YOU. THEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE STAYING NEARBY.



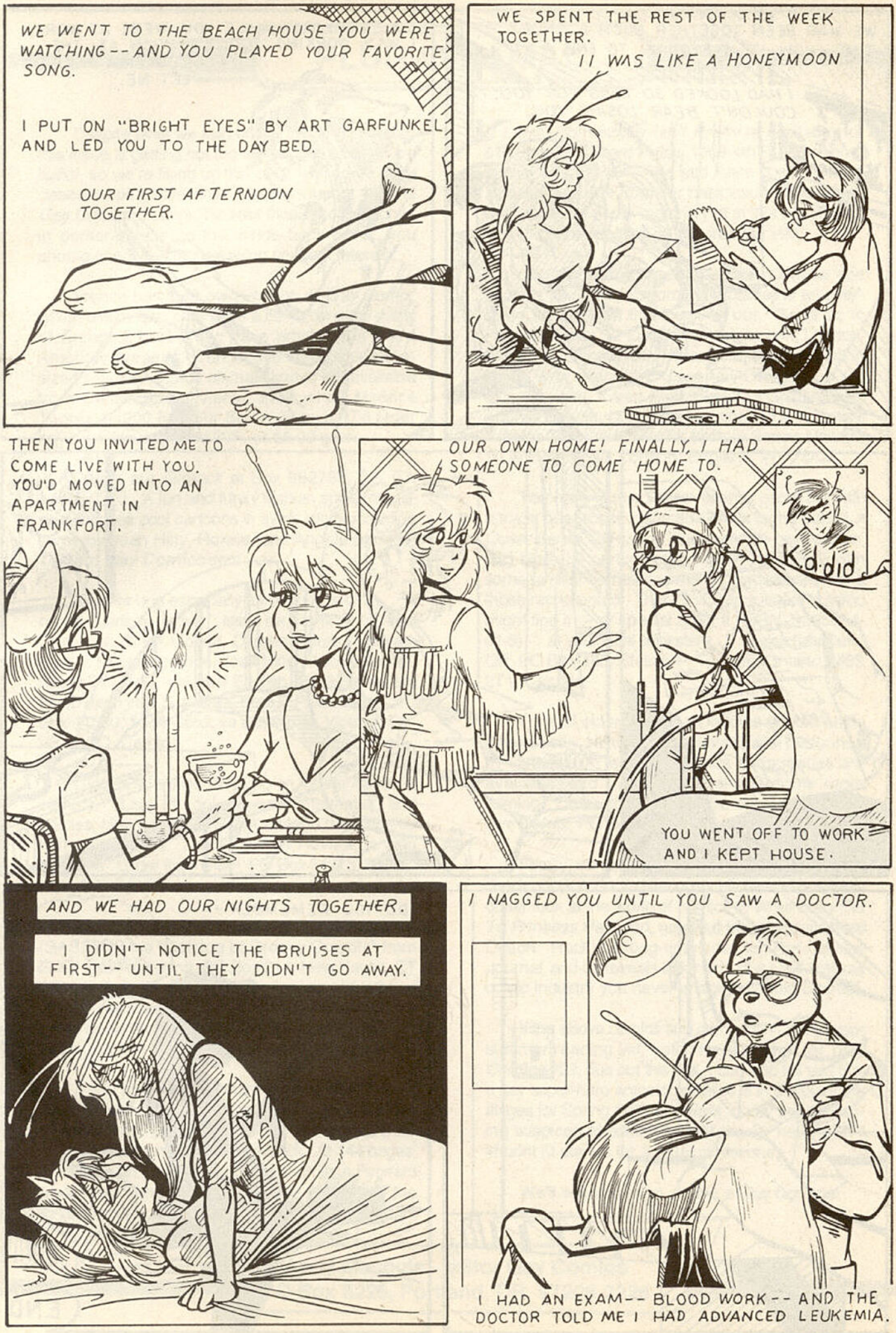
I USED TO BE A BITCH, BUT NOW I'M BUTCH.

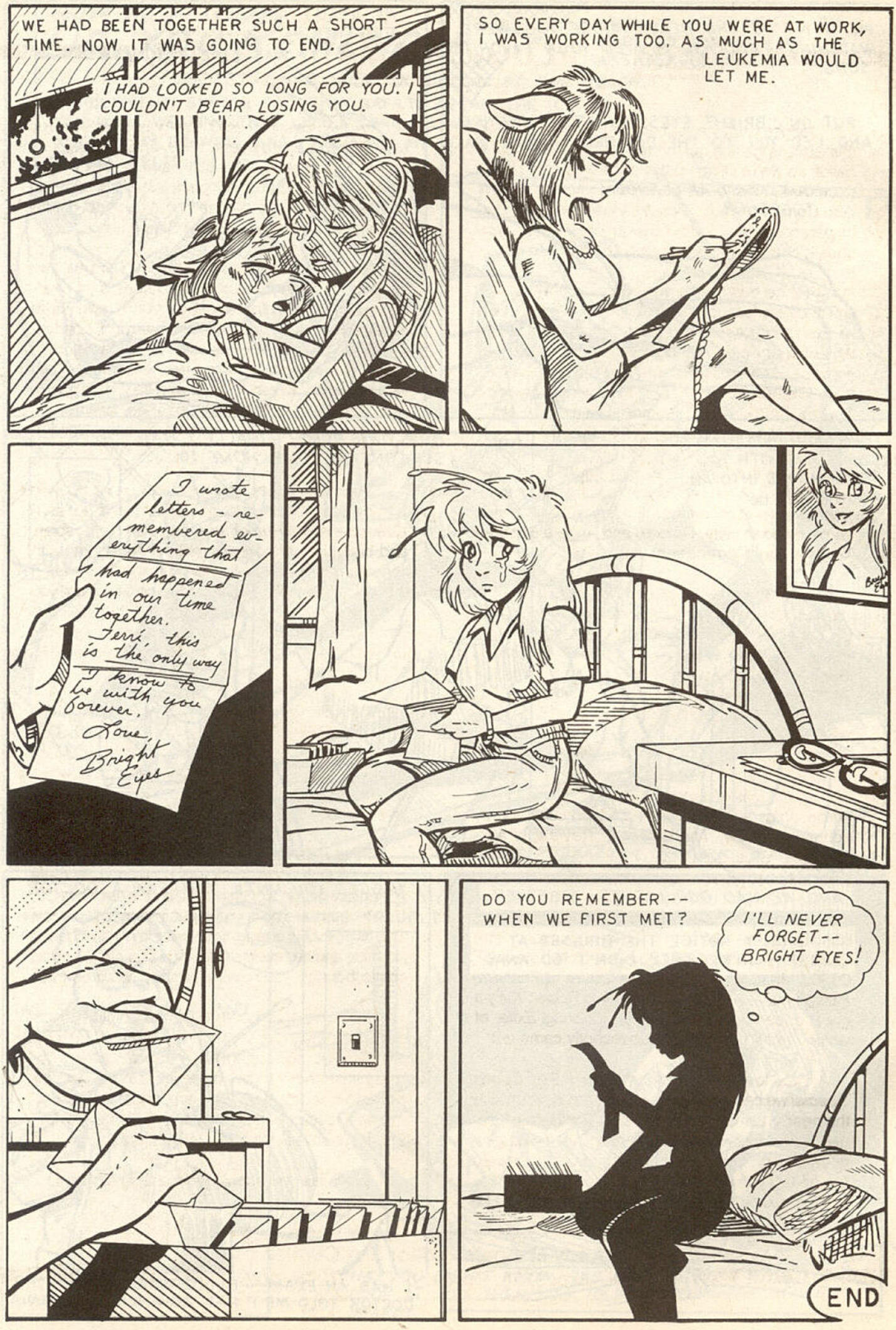
WHEN PET OWNERS ARE PERVERTS!

THE NURSE DOG PROGRAM



"BAD DOG! BAD DOG!"


WE WENT TO THE BEACH HOUSE YOU WERE WATCHING -- AND YOU PLAYED YOUR FAVORITE SONG.
I PUT ON "BRIGHT EYES" BY ART GARFUNKEL AND LED YOU TO THE DAY BED.
OUR FIRST AFTERNOON TOGETHER.
WE SPENT THE REST OF THE WEEK TOGETHER.
IT WAS LIKE A HONEYMOON
THEN YOU INVITED ME TO COME LIVE WITH YOU. YOU'D MOVED INTO AN APARTMENT IN FRANKFORT.
OUR OWN HOME! FINALLY, I HAD SOMEONE TO COME HOME TO.
K.d.did
YOU WENT OFF TO WORK AND I KEPT HOUSE.
AND WE HAD OUR NIGHTS TOGETHER.
I DIDN'T NOTICE THE BRUISES AT FIRST -- UNTIL THEY DIDN'T GO AWAY.
I NAGGED YOU UNTIL YOU SAW A DOCTOR.
I HAD AN EXAM -- BLOOD WORK -- AND THE DOCTOR TOLD ME I HAD ADVANCED LEUKEMIA.


WE HAD BEEN TOGETHER SUCH A SHORT TIME. NOW IT WAS GOING TO END.
I HAD LOOKED SO LONG FOR YOU. I COULDN'T BEAR LOSING YOU.
SO EVERY DAY WHILE YOU WERE AT WORK, I WAS WORKING TOO, AS MUCH AS THE LEUKEMIA WOULD LET ME.
I wrote letters - remembered everything that had happened in our time together. Ferri, this is the only way I know to be with you forever. Love, Bright Eyes
DO YOU REMEMBER -- WHEN WE FIRST MET?
I'LL NEVER FORGET -- BRIGHT EYES!
END

PLUG-O-RAMA!

Despite what we said on the inside front cover, this issue is getting out too late for the *CBG Award* ballot, so we're filling up this page with some long-deserved plugs for other items of interest to loyal ***Gay Comics*** readers. Besides those books plugged in personal bios on the inside back cover, you should check out the following items of interest:

France has their own version of *Gay Comix*, which differs from ours quite a bit. It contains many of Europe's best erotic male artists, and a few American creators. Ten issues of the magazine-sized sexually-explicit all-male comic are available from Centre Audio Viseul, 52 Avenue Maurice Thorez, 94200 Ivry-Sur-Seine, France. To order any back issues, send 29F. or $5.00 each.

Check out *Girljock* at Box 882723, SF, CA 94188-2723. A fun and funky lesbian sports magazine, this has cool cartoons in every issue, including some by Joan Hilty, Roxxie, and Angela Bocage! Tell 'em ***Gay Comics*** sent you.

Another one especially for women is *Oh. . .*, "a comic quarterly for her." Issue six has work by Alisa Campbell, Nikki Gosch, Dianne Reum, Tristram Puppy, Maureen, Hope, Joan Hilty, Alison Bechdel, Diane DiMassa, and Amy English. Back issues are $4.00 each in U.S. dollars, from B Publications, PO Box 41030, 5134 Cordova Bay Road, Victoria, BC, V8Y 2KO, Canada.

Ciao! is a fanzine focusing on "queer issues in comics." Lots of cool reviews, interviews, and articles, plus a strip or two. A cartoon collection by editor Jim Drew, *The Queer In Review*, is also available. Order from Ciao!, PO Box 61775, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.

Send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) for the "Catalog of Groovy Crapola" from Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven, CT 06502. In it, you'll find all the issues of *Hothead Paisan* (as seen in this issue), plus Robert Kirby's great queer strip zine, *Strange Looking Exile*, of which the fifth and final issue recently came out.

If you loved the *Leonard & Larry* ***Gay Comix Special*** we came out with two years ago, you'll love the nearly complete collection of Tim Barela's series in a handsome trade paperback. At 144 pages, it features an Introduction by yours truly, a Forward by the late John Preston, and lots and lots of the funniest couple of leather bears in the world. *Leonard & Larry: Domesticity Isn't Pretty* is available for $11.00 from Palliard Press, 1309 4th St SE, Minneapolis, MN, 55414. We still have copies of the ***Special*** available from our back issue department, and it features some material not in this paperback! See the centerspread ad for ordering info.

England has two answers to ***Gay Comics***, one for men, and one for women. *Buddies* is an oversized series, with three issues out. Send $5 to Pretend Family, 52 Dunedin Road, Leyton, London, E10 5NJ. *Dykes Delight* issue #2 just came out in May, with work by Jennifer Camper, Kate Charlesworth, Karen Platt, Grizelda Grizlingham, Andrea Natalie, Lucy Byatt, Leanne Franson, and Roberta Gregory. Order for $5 from Fanny, Unit 6A, 10 Acklam Road, London, England W10 5QZ.

Toronto's Queer Press recently came out with a trade paperback collection of cartoons called *A Queer Sense Of Humor*. It features 24 gay, lesbian, and bisexual cartoonists, mainly Canadian, with some familiar names and many newcomers among those represented. There's no price listed, but you might find it — or special order it (ISBN 1-895564-01-8) — at your local bookstore. If all else fails, write QP, PO Box 485, Station P, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2T1, Canada.

Fans of older men and Daddies should enjoy the explicitly sexual comic *Silver Balls*, cartooned by Quetzal. At least two issues of the series are available, and I hope Quetzal has some more coming. Order copies for $3.50 each, from Hand Jive Comix, PO Box 46095, LA, CA 90046.

Finally, it's not exactly a comic, but you should check out Rob Rodi's hilariously bitchy and positively queer look at the world of comics in *What They Did To Princess Paragon*, now out in hardcover from Dutton. Rodi is a long-time critic for *The Comics Journal*, and he reveals the inside of a semi-fictional comic industry you never imagined could be true!

If the above comics and comix don't fill out your summer reading list, you'll have to wait for ***Gay Comics*** #23, due out this Fall. I can also tell you that a gay super-hero anthology series is in the planning stages for Spring 1995 premiere, under the publishing auspices of editor Andy Mangels' new **"AMP"** imprint (it stands for A.M. Publications).

We'll see you soon. Have a Gay old time!

Andy Mangels - editor Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR 97208-3226

QUEER SIR . . .

My plea for letters last issue has brought in so many that I'll only be running snippets of several, to answer questions or address points in them. Keep writing please. Your letters are read, appreciated, and (eventually) answered!

Dear Andy,
*You have been doing an incredible job with **Gay Comics**. Your book is a dream come true for all of us who grew up with comics as religion. It's about time that someone is putting out quality stories about our people. And what stories they are! The diversity you present is incredible, though I do have a fondness for the theme issues you have done (especially the Leonard and Larry issue!). It's also been thrilling to see work by many of my boyhood heroes. How do you manage to get talent like Craig Hamilton (who made Aquaman sensual) and Eric Shanower (Pizza Face was hilarious)? Give me more!*

***Super Gay Comics** #20 is damn good. From cover to cover you've given us a wonderfully diverse collection of queer superheroic mythology. Keep up the great work you're doing with this book. Thanks for making the comics of my adulthood free from the heterosexist bias that plagued the heroes of my youth.*

Robert A. Nunez III
Fullerton, CA

The above is greatly condensed from two letters Robert sent in, for which he expressed fondness for many of the creators and heroes in ***Gay Comics*** #16-20! Thanks for the kind words, Robert, and while you won't be seeing lots of superheroes in ***Gay Comics***, you will see them occasionally. See the end of the plug-o-rama column next page for some exciting news about a new gay super-hero anthology.

Dear Andy,
*Let me take this opportunity to say how excited I've been by the reemergence of **Gay Comics**. This is its third phase, as far as I can tell. I enjoyed Howard Cruse's editorship because he really pushed creators to produce a personal work of quality. I felt that after he left there was a decreasing emphasis on what I'll call the craft or art of cartooning and the techniques that make the medium unique. So, your plans look good to me. Just looking at the issues I can feel the energy. Good luck.*

Stephen K. Jusick
Princeton, NJ

I am indeed the third editor of ***Gay Comics***, Stephen, but I admire the work of second editor Robert Triptow quite a bit. He brought on board a lot of the current stars of the queer comic scene, not the least of which is Tim Barela. All three editors have had a different focus for the series; among mine are to bring the series out of the underground and into the mainstream, and to have a 50/50 sexual equality between male and female cartoonists. Stephen also suggests prose articles or reviews, a sentiment echoed by others. I'd suggest you check out *Ciao!*, which already covers this area.

Dave Sanders of San Francisco wrote as a fan of my *Sentinel* stories in ***Gay Comics***, and of my *ElfQuest: Blood Of Ten Chiefs* stories. WARP decided not to renew my contract after issue #7 of that series, so the gay-themed *ElfQuest* stories I had planned will probably never materialize. Dave suggest Colleen Doran's *A Distant Soil* as an "illustrated novel" series which features gay characters. I second the recommendation. I've spoken with Colleen about doing some work for us in our pages, and she's willing to when she's got some time open in her schedule. She's now self-publishing *A.D.S.* through Aria Press.

M.G. Keller of Durham, NC, notes that in our super-hero issue, two female-created characters had non-violent vision powers, which was an interesting contrast to Cyclops' and Superman's destructive vision powers. Cool! I hadn't thought of that. Meanwhile, Garrett Swearingen of Somerville, MA, asks if Alison Bechdel is an alumnus of Oberlin College, as he thinks he recognizes the campus in her "Coming Out Story" in ***GC*** #19. According to the a Spring '94 Oberlin almuni magazine's feature story on Alison, she graduated in 1981. You win the sharp-eyes award.

As I wrap up, I just got a press release on the winners of the 1993 Lamdba Literary Awards. In the release, they note "We may have to retire the gay and lesbian humor award: this is the third time Alison Bechdel's *Dykes To Watch Out For* have won our judges' hearts." Pardon me, but if the plug-o-rama page following this one isn't indicative enough of what else is on the market, there are plenty of gay and lesbian cartoonists which the Lammies are ignoring. . . not the least of which is ***Gay Comics!***

We'll see you next issue, with more comics, more fun, and more letters!

Andy Mangels - editor Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR 97208-3226

CONTRIBUTORS

Reed Waller and **Kate Worley** are the husband and wife team who create the immensely-popular critically-acclaimed anthropomorphic Adults Only series, *Omaha, The Cat Dancer*. They publicly came out as bisexual in their letters column in 1988, making them the first openly bisexual creators in comics. They have had characters of all sexual orientations in their series, which recently moved from Kitchen Sink Press to Fantagraphic Books. Other appearances of the duo have included stories in *Strip AIDS USA, Critters*, and *Real Girl*. This is their *Gay Comics* premiere.

Leanne Franson is the creator of *Lilianne*, and a host of zines and mini-comics, available for $2.00 apiece from 3908 St. Christophe, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 3X8. Look for more of her work in *Gay Comics* #18.

Michael Goldberg is a long-time contributor to *Gay Comix*, having appeared in issues #5-8,10-14. His *Swishy Fishy* stories and others have also appeared in *Meatmen, Choices*, and *Strip AIDS USA*. Living in Portland, he is working on a children's book.

J. D. March is a cruel lesbian who forces her cat and her lover to read her cartoons before torturing the general public with them. Someday she hopes to make a living from this form of sadism. She has appeared in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 18.

Vaughn Frick is another long-time *Gay Comics* contributor, having had work in issues #3-5, 7, 8, 13-15. He had a collection of his own, *Watch Out Comix*, as well as appearances in *Meatmen, Strip AIDS USA, Annie Sprinkle Is Miss Timed*, and *PDXS*. A Portlander, he's collaborating with editor Andy Mangels on a story about "Gerbilling" for Dark Horse's upcoming *Urban Legends* #2.

Diane DiMassa is the creator of the hugely popular *Hothead Paisan* comic zine. The first nine issues -- plus 21 exclusive new pages -- have been collected in large format book form from Cleis Press (a bargain at $14.95). Order *Hothead* #1-14 for $3.50 each from Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven, CT 06502. This is her *Gay Comics* premiere

Steven Lowther has been seen in many British publications, from *Avalon, Buddies, Heartbreak Hotel, Trident, Him*, and *Meatmen*. He's also appeared in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17, 20.

Howard Stangroom is the editor of our British counterpart, *Buddies*. He ekes out his living as a comic shop wage slave. His work has appeared in *Avalon, Heartbreak Hotel, Him, Meatmen, Masters of the Universe, She-Ra*, and the kinky *My Little Pony*. He has done stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #11, 12, 14, 17, 20.

Joan Hilty is a cartoonist and office slave in New York. Her work has appeared in *Girl/Jock, Real Girl*, and *Wimmen's Comics*. She's also been in *Gay Comix/Comics* #13, 14, 18, 20.

Kurt Erichsen is a familiar name to long-time readers. An Ohio resident, he's famous for his *Murphy's Manor* and *Sparkle Spinsters* strips. He's done work for *Starlog, Science Fiction Review, The Guide, Under The Cover/Between The Sheets*, and most of the *Meatmen* books. He's had stories in *Gay Comix* #1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 20.

Kris Kovick is a San Francisco writer and artist whose book *What I Love About Lesbian Politics Is Arguing With people I Agree With* has a really long title. She's now producing the zine *Burning Bush*, illustrating *The Bible* in all its sexy and gory reality! She's had 'toons in *Real Girl* and many lesbian/feminist books, including work in *Gay Comix* #17.

Mike Curtis, Terrie Smith, and **Mark Barnard** are some of the team behind Antarctic Press' *Shanda The Panda* series. Creator and writer Mike lives in Texas, and has done other work in the "furry fandom" arena. Terrie is from California, and has contributed to *Katmandu*, and numerous fan publications. Mark is a Kansas man who edits the SF zine *Midnight Sonata*. All three will be working on a new SF series (with a major gay character) called *Nautilus* for Antarctic. *Shanda The Panda* #1-5 are available for $3.50 apiece from Antarctic Press, 7272 Wurzbach Suite #204, San Antonio, TX 78240. Long-time fans of this series, this is their *Gay Comics* debut.

Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* (since issue #14), and writes *ElfQuest: Blood Of Ten Chiefs* for WARP. He has upcoming stories in *The Batman Adventures* and *Justice League Quarterly* for DC, as well as regular work on *Bloodwulf* and *Badrock & Company*, both coming this Fall from Image! He's also the publisher and editor of a new erotic magazine of uniformed men, called *IN UNIFORM*, which premieres in May. He's written stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 16-18, 20.

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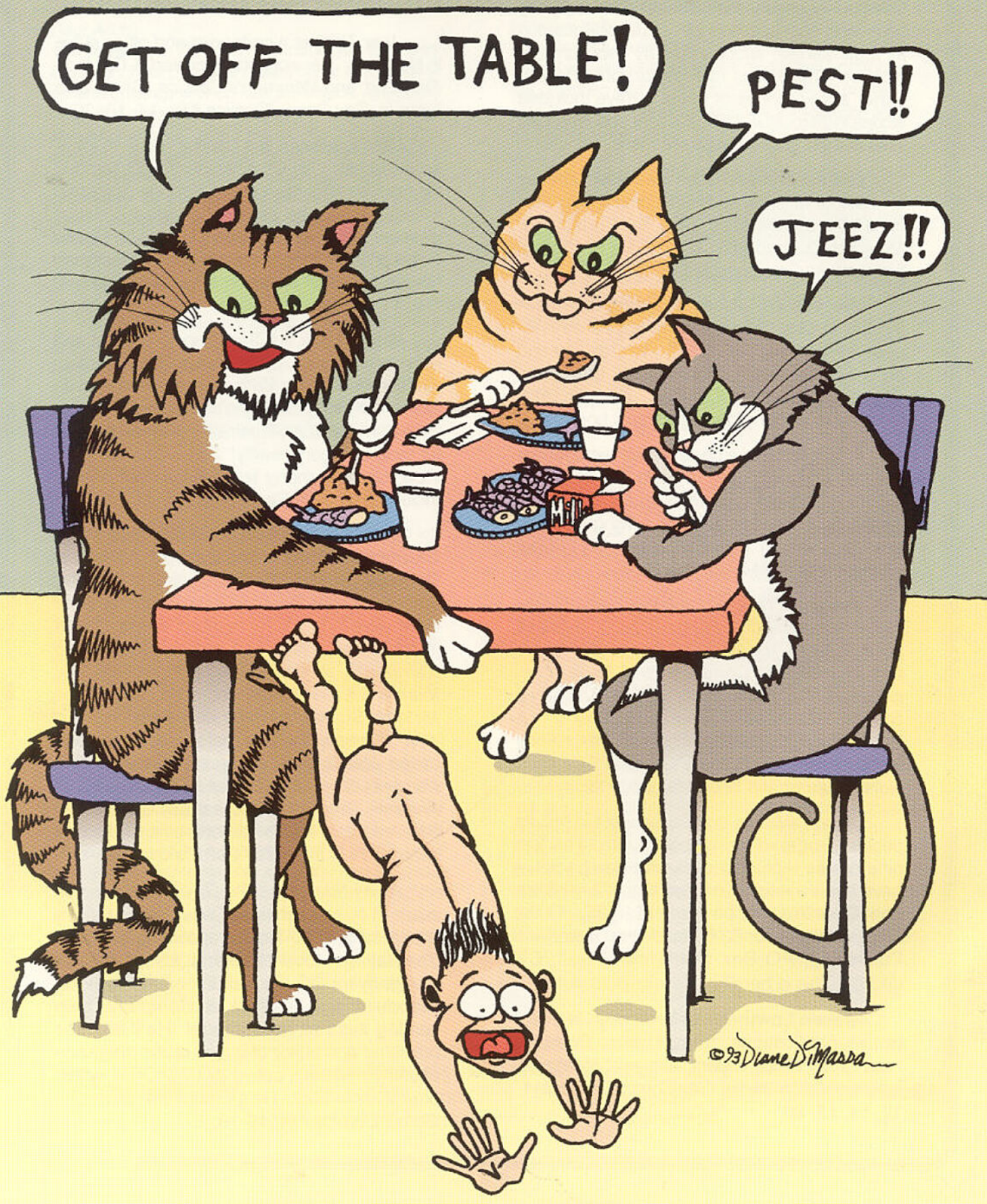
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